



Consumer Federation of America



## WEST VIRGINIANS SUPPORT RENEWING, STRENGTHENING FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

A new survey<sup>1</sup> commissioned by Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) found that a substantial majority of *likely voters* in West Virginia supports renewing and strengthening the federal assault weapons ban. Following are general findings, as well as support among key demographics.

### General Findings

- ? 68% of likely voters in West Virginia favor renewing the federal assault weapons ban, with 55% strongly favoring its renewal. Twenty-seven percent oppose renewal; 5% don't know or refused to answer.
- ? 65% of likely voters support strengthening the ban to prevent the gun industry from manufacturing commercial models of military-style assault weapons. Fifty-three percent strongly favor strengthening the ban. Twenty-eight percent oppose it; 7% don't know or refused to answer.

### Support among Key Demographics

- ? 64% of West Virginia NASCAR fans favor renewing the ban, with 52% strongly favoring its renewal. Fifty-nine percent of NASCAR fans favor strengthening the ban.
- ? 69% of current and former military and military families in West Virginia support renewing the ban.
- ? 64% of West Virginia union households favor renewing the ban, with 56 percent strongly favoring its renewal. Nearly two-thirds of union households (64%) support strengthening the ban.
- ? 56% of West Virginia gun owners support renewing the assault weapons ban; 51% of gun owners support strengthening it.
- ? 51% of West Virginia NRA supporters favor renewing the ban, with 39 percent strongly favoring its renewal. Forty-nine percent of NRA supporters favor strengthening the ban.
- ? 75% of West Virginia women support renewing the ban; 61% of men support the ban's renewal.

*Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is a non-profit association of 300 pro-consumer groups, which was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education. CFA Research Director Mark Cooper, Ph.D. and Firearms Project Director Susan Peschin, MHS authored this report. Call (202) 939-1017 with any questions.*

*The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence was founded in 1975 and is comprised of 45 civic, professional and religious organizations and 100,000 individual members working to reduce gun violence.*

<sup>1</sup> Lake Snell Perry & Associates conducted the survey. Findings are derived from a statewide survey conducted in West Virginia June 28 - July 1, 2004. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.9% and reached a base sample of 400 registered likely voters. All respondents indicated they were likely to vote in this year's election for President.