

BIOGRAPHY™

HOME



NAME

Jack Reed

OCCUPATION

U.S.
Representative

BIRTH DATE

November 12,
1949 (age 68)

EDUCATION

LaSalle Academy,
United States
Military Academy
at West Point,
Harvard
University, John F.
Kennedy School
for Government

PLACE OF BIRTH

Providence,
Rhode Island

AKA

Jack Reed
John Reed

FULL NAME

John Francis Reed

ZODIAC SIGN

Scorpio

Jack Reed

U.S. Representative (1949–)

Rhode Island's Jack Reed is an attorney and military veteran who's served in Congress on the Democratic ticket.

Synopsis

Born on November 12, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island, Jack Reed served in the U.S. Army and studied law at Harvard before entering politics, winning election to his state legislature and then a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives with the Democratic Party. By the mid-1990s, Reed had gained a seat in the Senate, and won by landslides in the 2002 and 2008 elections. He is known for having voted against the Iraq War authorization.

Early Life and Education

Longtime U.S. Congressman Jack Reed was born John Francis Reed on November 12, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in nearby Cranston. His father, Joe, was a World War II veteran and a school janitor who worked his way up to become custodial supervisor of Cranston's school system. His mother, Mary, was a homemaker.

Reed graduated from the private LaSalle Academy in Providence and earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon his graduation from West Point in 1971, Reed earned a degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Military Service

Reed also spent eight years in active duty military service as a U.S. Army Ranger and a paratrooper. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division as an infantry platoon leader and in the 325th Infantry Regiment as a company commander, later serving as a battalion staff officer. He returned to West Point in 1978, taking a role as an associate professor in the academy's Department of Social Sciences.

Resigning from the Army as a captain in 1979, Reed enrolled at Harvard Law School. He graduated from Harvard in 1982, afterward serving a year as an associate with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP. In 1983, Reed returned to Rhode Island and joined the Providence law firm of Edwards and Angell.

Political Career

In 1984, Jack Reed was elected to the Rhode Island State Senate, serving for three terms. In 1990, he won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he also saw a three-term tenure.

In 1996, Reed won a seat in the U.S. Senate. He was re-elected with 78 percent of the vote in 2002—the same year that he voted against the authorization of the Iraq War. He again won by a landslide in the 2008 election.

Personal Life

Senator Reed married Julia Hart in 2005. The couple has a daughter, Emily, born in 2007.

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McCain blasts Army for considering recruits with history of self-mutilation, vows action

Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY Published 4:26 p.m. ET Nov. 14, 2017 | Updated 5:32 p.m. ET Nov. 14, 2017



(Photo: J. Scott Applewhite, AP)

WASHINGTON — The Army's decision to allow people with a history of self-mutilation, bipolar disorder, depression and drug and alcohol abuse to seek waivers to enlist in the service drew a sharp, bipartisan rebuke on Tuesday when Sen. John McCain said he was prepared to put a hold on nominations to Pentagon posts until the Army explained the policy.

McCain, the Arizona Republican who chairs the Armed Services Committee, upbraided the nominee for Army general counsel, James McPherson, saying he and the committee members learned about the change in policy

in a report by USA TODAY on Monday.

"If you took a poll of this committee right now I doubt if you'd find a single one who would be approving of this practice, which we now find out about reading the daily newspaper," McCain said.

Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the committee from Rhode Island, said he concurred with McCain's concerns.

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"We cannot sacrifice quality for quantity," Reed said. "It's that simple. We have to do both and we have to work together to get it done."

McCain also blasted the Trump administration and Pentagon for failing to keep Congress informed of its actions.

"It's a problem that, frankly, this committee is having with this administration," McCain said. "We should have been told about this before it showed up in a USA TODAY article."

Monday's report, based on internal Army documents, showed that the Army in August reversed a policy that had prevented people with mental health issues, including "self-mutilation," from seeking waivers to join. The burden of proof is on the applicant to provide a "clear and meritorious case" for the waiver, according to one document.

The Army acknowledged in a statement to USA TODAY that the prohibition on waivers had been "rescinded" in August based primarily on better access to the medical records of applicants. The ban on waivers had been in place since 2009 when it was instituted during a spike in suicides among service members.

"Are we seeing the same movie over and over again, Mr. McPherson?" McCain asked.

McPherson responded: "Senator, unfortunately it would seem that way."

Risks involved in waivers

The Army, in a statement released Monday night and later sent to USA TODAY, made reference to the USA TODAY report, calling it "inaccurate." Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, the Army's top personnel officer, said the Army had not changed its medical entrance standards, saying it had made a "simple, administrative change" that had been "substantially misinterpreted."

The Army said it had changed the approval process for the waivers. Previously they had to be granted by Army headquarters in Washington. Now they can be granted by the Army Recruiting Command, Seamands said.

McPherson, however, called the story "troubling." He vowed to seek answers about it.

"I believe that history has shown that when you bring in individuals through a waiver process there's a risk involved in that," McPherson said. "A risk that they might not turn out to be exemplary soldiers."

The Army declined to say if any waivers have been issued since August, a fact that rankled McCain and prompted his threat to halt Senate confirmations for key spots at the Pentagon. He read lengthy excerpts of the story to McPherson.

More: [Army lifts ban on waivers for recruits with history of some mental health issues \(/story/news/politics/2017/11/12/army-lifts-ban-recruits-history-self-mutilation-other-mental-health-issues/853131001/\)](/story/news/politics/2017/11/12/army-lifts-ban-recruits-history-self-mutilation-other-mental-health-issues/853131001/)

More: [Army is accepting more low-quality recruits, giving waivers for marijuana to hit targets \(/story/news/politics/2017/10/10/army-accepting-more-low-quality-recruits-giving-waivers-marijuana-hit-targets/750844001/\)](/story/news/politics/2017/10/10/army-accepting-more-low-quality-recruits-giving-waivers-marijuana-hit-targets/750844001/)

"The United States Army will not respond to us as to how many waivers have been issued since the policy was changed," McCain said. "What you do to us here is you face us with an unacceptable option, and that is, to get the information, which you just verbally heard...is to stop confirming people for jobs."

McCain went on, at times incredulously, wondering why the Army would rescind its ban.

"Self-mutilation is something that...it comes home to roost," McCain said.

He promised to pursue legislation to prevent the Army from allowing the waivers.

[171107112049 0001](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4209613-171107112049-0001.html)

[\(https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4209613-171107112049-0001.html\)](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4209613-171107112049-0001.html)



Sen. Reed reintroduces assault weapons ban



By [Sarah Doiron \(http://wpri.com/author/sarahdoironwpri/\)](http://wpri.com/author/sarahdoironwpri/)

Published: November 8, 2017, 8:03 pm | Updated: November 9, 2017, 7:26 am



PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) — U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) joined Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in introducing a bill Wednesday to renew a ban on the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

The new bill, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017, is based on the 1990s Assault Weapons Ban. Reed helped pass the first ban when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994.

Reed said the first assault weapons ban received bipartisan support, with strong backing from former Presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

“We need to break the gun lobby’s grip on Washington to help save lives and reduce gun violence nationwide,” Reed said in a statement. “Battlefield weapons shouldn’t be for sale on every street corner in America.”

[According to the Gun Violence Archive \(http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/\)](http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/), a non-profit that tracks shootings via media reports and law enforcement records, there have already been 308 mass-shootings in 2017, including two in the last six weeks — in Las Vegas, Nevada and Sutherland Springs, Texas — that were carried out with assault weapons, killing 86 people and injuring 461 people in those two incidents alone.

"I'm for responsible gun ownership, but there is no defense for the way gun manufacturers have irresponsibly flooded the market with military-style assault rifles that are being used to slaughter innocent men, women, and children in communities across the country," Reed said.

Reed noted that the legislation would allow gun owners who already own assault weapons to keep them, but it would strengthen background checks for people looking to buy one that's already in circulation.

Here are the specifics of the Assault Weapons Ban:

- Ban the sale, manufacture, transfer, and importation of 205 military-style assault weapons, listed by name in the bill. Owners can keep existing weapons.
- Ban any assault weapon that accepts a detachable ammunition magazine and has one or more military characteristics, including a pistol grip, a forward grip, a barrel shroud, a threaded barrel or a folding or telescoping stock. Owners can keep existing weapons.
- Ban magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, which allow shooters to quickly fire many rounds without needing to reload. Owners can keep existing magazines.

Here are the exemptions to the Assault Weapons Ban:

- The bill exempts by name more than 2,200 guns for hunting, household defense or recreational purposes. This list will be updated to include additional weapons.
- The bill includes a grandfather clause that exempts all weapons lawfully possessed at the date of enactment.

Other provisions of the Assault Weapons Ban include:

- Requires a background check on any future sale, trade or gifting of an assault weapon covered by the bill.
- Requires that grandfathered assault weapons are stored using a secure gun storage or safety device like a trigger lock.
- Prohibits the transfer of high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Bans bump-fire stocks and other devices that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire at fully automatic rates.

Reed and Feinstein teamed up earlier this year, along with three other members of the R.I. Congressional Delegation, to introduce the [Automatic Gun Fire Prevention Act \(http://wpri.com/2017/10/04/ri-congressional-delegation-signs-on-to-ban-on-bump-stocks/\)](http://wpri.com/2017/10/04/ri-congressional-delegation-signs-on-to-ban-on-bump-stocks/), which is a bill to ban "bump stocks."

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