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Democrats last enacted an assault weapons ban in 1994, but it expired 10 years later.

WASHINGTON, DC - House Democrats announced a last-minute vote on a bill to ban assault weapons on Friday, looking to pass the highly anticipated legislation before lawmakers break for the month-long August recess.

In a letter to colleagues just after 11 a.m. on Friday, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said the House would vote on the assault weapons ban that afternoon, calling the legislation "a crucial step in our ongoing fight against the deadly epidemic of gun violence in our nation."

Read the developing story here.