



Americans Against Gun Violence
921 11th Street, Suite 700
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 668-4160
aagunv.org / info@aagunv.org

Untitled Essay

By

Mason Davis

Bloomington High School North, Bloomington, Indiana

Two-year-old Montreal Dunn, full of life and just learning to talk, shot himself in the head after finding a loaded gun in Louisville in August of 2019. After this fatal incident legislators fought for stricter gun storage laws, to no avail. Just two weeks later, a 2-year-old boy in Maryland shot himself in the head while the people in the home were asleep (Penzenstadler). This and so many stories like it lead to outrage such as that voiced by former Chief U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger when he said, "If I were writing the Bill of Rights now, there wouldn't be any such thing as the Second Amendment... This has been the subject of one of the greatest pieces of fraud - I repeat the word 'fraud' - on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime." Yet anti-regulation politicians and lobbyists continue to fight gun control in the United States, claiming protection by the Second Amendment.

Gun lobbyist organizations such as the California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA) claim it would make Americans no safer to impose stricter gun regulations (CRPA). Other organizations, such as the NRA, spend roughly \$250 million per year (BBC) in an attempt to convince U.S. legislators of this. However, statistics show that regulation is certainly needed. As of 2018, there were more than 393 million civilian-owned firearms in the U.S. (ojp.gov). According to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), there were 19,411 gun violence deaths, including 2,311 accidental deaths and 5,141 deaths involving children and teens, in 2020 alone.

The most common argument against gun regulation is that it impedes one's Second Amendment rights. However, the Second Amendment is designed to provide for a strong state militia, the role of which has been replaced by a national body over 200 years ago (ojp.gov), making this argument no longer credible. In addition, as Burger stated, most of our rights come with regulations, such as

Essay 2022-29: Who and What Are You Protecting?

owning and driving a car. So why would something so potentially lethal be any different?

I myself come from a hunting background and a family culture that recognizes the danger of possessing and operating firearms. I am happy to comply with all of my state regulations, from taking the Hunters Education Course when I was thirteen to renewing my hunting licence annually. Without these regulations, we would be trusting the lives of the public to the judgement of individuals. That is not what our country is built on. We have police, require drivers insurance, and have developed societal mechanisms to protect the common good. Access to and use of firearms should be no different. Gun regulations are not an attack on the rights of gun owners, but protection of the rights of life and liberty for myself and my family, and I am grateful for them.

References

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/06/19/there-are-more-guns-than-people-in-the-united-states-according-to-a-new-study-of-global-firearm-ownership/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/03/19/gun-deaths-shooting-accidents-killed-73-kids-last-year/3032060002/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35261394>

<https://crpa.org/news/blogs/ten-powerful-arguments-against-gun-control/>

<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/second-amendment-does-not-guarantee-right-own-gun-gun-control-p-99>