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Editorial Paper

Gun Control: A Huge Mistake

The gun, a tool capable of propelling a metal projectile at hundreds or thousands of miles per hour. Firearms have a very negative connotation due to mass shootings and suicides popularized by mainstream media. What if I told you that guns are far more beneficial than harmful? Firearms should be loosely regulated and more accepted in society because guns help lower crime, keep people safe, and defend us from tyranny and invasion.

A common misconception is that high amounts of guns means higher crime rates. It is actually just the opposite. Texas has some of the most lenient gun laws in the U.S. Detroit on the other hand, has far more restrictive gun laws. The city of Austin, Texas has 3.9 homicides for every 100,000 people (["List of United States cities by crime rate.", 1](#)). The city of Detroit, Michigan on the other hand, has 54.6 homicides per 100,000 people (["List of United States cities by crime rate.", 1](#)) That is almost 15 times more! Detroit also has far more restrictive gun laws. While others say there would be less criminals if there were more comprehensive and restrictive gun laws, this is not true. Criminals are criminals because they don't follow the laws. Why would they make an exception for gun laws? Criminals can also get guns from foreign markets for much

cheaper, essentially making any domestic US laws completely worthless. Banning certain guns will just take those gun from law-abiding citizens. Criminals have no problem or trouble getting legal guns.

Guns are also very good at keeping people safe because they are an invaluable form of deterrence and defense. Guns are very helpful in a home defense scenario. If there is a criminal in your home, he is much less likely to come to your bedroom if he hears a pump shotgun being racked. On top of that, he knows the police will likely be to the house in a few minutes. At that time, a criminal would have to be brave (or dumb) to attack you, let alone stay in the house. While gun control advocates may say, "What if the criminal has a gun?" The chances of a home invader being armed with a gun are very slim, and a criminal with a weapon that can rival your firearm is close to none. Chances are if you have a weapon for home defense it is an assault rifle, shotgun or carbine. Less than two percent of all crimes are committed with an assault weapon, and a small percent of these are home invasion, so the chance of being burglarized by someone with an assault weapon is very close to never (*"List of United States cities by crime rate."*,1). If we had stricter gun laws, citizens could not adequately defend their homes. Plus, criminals with illegal firearms could invade homes very easily because no citizens would have guns. This could even escalate very easily to murder, a hostage crisis, or a standoff with police. People might also, say guns should be banned because they are only used for killing and guns make killing much easier for criminals. While this is true, if guns were banned, criminals would have no problem find other ways to murder multiple people at a time. For instance, on the same day of the Newtown shooting, there

was a knife massacre in China. A mass murderer could kill just as many people with a large truck than he could with any rifle. While many people may not believe this, in 2010 Li Xianliang killed 17 people and injured another 20-30 people with a vehicle (*"List of rampage killers." 2*).

Guns can potentially defend us from foreign invaders and actively defend us from corruption and tyranny. Guns help defend from tyranny and corruption. If a potentially corrupt and/or totalitarian leader went into office, it would be very hard to pass a law that is very unfavorable with the American people. This is because if over 300 million people disagree with the president it would be very hard to suppress/oppress all 300 million people if every single one of them is armed with a weapon and sufficient ammunition because it is estimated that there is about one gun for every citizen in the United States. This is also true for foreign invaders. If an army somehow defeated the US military, there would still be 300 million (incredibly angry) people armed to the teeth. This group of people would be 100 times larger than any military in the world. During WWII the Japanese knew attacking the US would be a huge mistake. Admiral Yamamoto, the head Admiral of the Japanese Imperial Navy during WWII said invading America would be suicide because, "there would be guns behind every blade of grass".

Overall, guns are far more helpful than harmful, and should not be restricted because of a few bad people doing awful things with them. Crime will always be prevalent, and criminals will almost always use the tool that is easy to get and helps them commit crimes. If you restrict/ban guns, they may just use a different tool that is harder to get but more effective, or a tool that is less effective but easier to get. If you

truly care about your Second Amendments rights, write to your congressman demanding more lenient firearm laws.

Work Cited

1. Wikipedia contributors. "List of United States cities by crime rate." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 16 Dec. 2014. Web. 2 Feb. 2015
2. Wikipedia contributors. "List of rampage killers." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 24 Jan. 2015. Web. 2 Feb. 2015.