

Student as delegate for Minnesota presenting to the committee (ACLU):

Gun control in America is currently one of the most polarizing topics in the United States. The states are usually defined as red or blue but purple states also exist. They deal with both sides of the argument when deciding their stances on any topic. Minnesota's interests are split between heightening gun control laws and strengthening protection. The house is generally for higher gun laws, but past laws proposed would only 'impact the lawful gun owners, not those who would be/are criminals.'

The proposed laws, however, are more about preventing to-be criminals from accessing guns. With loopholes like private sellers not requiring background checks, access to guns is made much more accessible. This is addressed by Minnesota's latest government representatives. As for how this ties in with the second amendment, the people will still have access and rights to keep and bear arms. It will simply prevent purchases from people who don't meet the criteria to own and operate a gun.

To prevent the loophole access to guns, the state of Minnesota is pushing towards always requiring an extensive background check. Along with it, the push for new laws that act as red flags. This will allow the police to confiscate the guns from people who are flagged as dangerous. It is important to move forward with this because removing the weapon from a dangerous situation will decrease the amounts of casualties. It also inadvertently protects the rights of the gun owners by not discriminating against them: red flag laws only apply if you are unfit to own the gun anymore.

These new proposals might be seen as an infringement on the second amendment. However, the amendment only states that people should have the rights to keep and bear weapons, not purchase them. Preventing purchases or slowing them down with a background check is only detrimental in instances of ongoing violence. But these instances are only possible if these people have obtained a weapon in the first place, hence why the extensive background check is required with the new proposals. As for the red flag laws, these do have the potential to be abused. Police may accidentally allow prejudice to blind their eyes and remove guns from people who are innocent, law-abiding people. This is why these laws will be defined and have a strict definition behind them.

Through these methods, gun control could prevent harm from being done before it has happened. While the red flag proposed laws may infringe on the second amendment, the strict definitions to back them will not allow such abuse. With more intensive and required background checks, the previously meandering nature of obtaining a gun will be taken care of. If every state considered tightening the requirements and conditions of owning and carrying a gun, the loss of life more than likely drop. The state of Minnesota believes in tighter gun control and through detailed and careful consideration, believes it is achievable.

References:

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Magan, Christopher. "New Gov. Tim Walz Says DFL Gun Proposal 'Just Makes Sense'." Twin Cities, Twin

Cities, 9 Jan. 2019, www.twincities.com/2019/01/07/mn-gov-tim-walz-says-dfl-gun-proposals-just-makes-sense/.

Keneally, Meghan. "Breaking down the NRA-Backed Theory That a Good Guy with a Gun Stops a Bad Guy with a Gun." ABC News, ABC News Network, 9 Oct. 2018, abcnews.go.com/US/breaking-nra-backed-theory-good-guy-gun-stops/story?id=53360480.

Student self-assessment and reflection:

I think that I am at an accomplished level because I have done research not only my state, but I have also cited the Second Amendment and the relation between State and Federal Law (ex: Printz v. United States). I have put into detail the dilemma in my state about whether to put less or more regulations on firearms and I have, in extensive and accurate detail, written about the current laws in place in my state and new legislation that would change these existing laws, as well as the support and backlash regarding these laws, as well as my opinion and what I would do to fix these issues.