Taylor Martin

Stapleton

ENGL 1301.031

13 September 2018

Gun Control Laws

Gun control laws include restrictions on firearms, limiting guns, long waiting periods, and in some cases the complete banning of the guns. Gun control laws effect millions of people worldwide and not always for the best. The restrictions on firearms can cause hundreds of thousands of innocent people to be defenseless in the event of a robbery, house burglary, or more so in recent times a mass shooting. Gun laws are not always harmful. They can protect people from dangerous criminals as long as the ones who implement the laws can also remove them from the hands of the criminals. These laws work well in different cultures. For instance, if gun laws were enforced in Canada it would go over much better than in deep east Texas. Gun laws can cause serious harm to people, but they can also help save lives.

Gun law controversies have more recently become a large issue. With mass shootings becoming more and more common it is very important that citizens be ready at all times for these catastrophes. One side says citizens should be ready at all times to defend themselves from these criminals with weapons of their own while the other side says if we had stricter gun laws these criminals would not have access to the weapon in the first place. One thing that people must understand, however, is that if a criminal wants a gun, they will get a gun. (Numerous studies conducted by academic researchers and by the federal government have shown that criminals do not use legal markets to obtain guns). (Philip J. Cook, Susan T. Parker, and Harold A. Pollack conducted interviews with criminals being held in the Cook County Jail.  Their primary findings were that criminals get guns from their “social network,” i.e. friends and persons known to them, but generally not from the various legal sources available to them). NRA-ILA. “Study: Criminals Don't Get Guns from Legal Sources.” *NRA-ILA*, September 27 2018.

The culture of an area highly impacts how effective these types of laws will affect an area. For example, in Chicago where gun laws are the strictest the crime rate is ridiculous. This is one of the biggest arguments for the anti gun control laws argument. “I think one of the things we don't want to do is try to create laws that won't stop these types of things from happening," Sanders said Monday. "I think if you look to Chicago where you had over 4,000 victims of gun-related crimes last year they have the strictest gun laws in the country. That certainly hasn't helped there” Kurtzleben, Danielle. “FACT CHECK: Is Chicago Proof That Gun Laws Don't Work?” *NPR*, NPR, 5 Oct. 2017, September 27 2018. This is one example of many instances of gun laws not working. However, as previously stated, the culture of an area can have a tremendous effect on how well the laws can integrate. Chicago is a very exaggerated example do to the already high amount of crime that is present. These laws have been introduced to areas all across the globe and in some areas, they are amazingly effective.

Canadas gun laws are much stricter than that of Americas. Canadas laws include a sixty-day waiting period, mandatory background checks, mandatory firearm safety classes, and many banned firearms. Many of the biggest mass shootings that have occurred in the united states may not have even happened if Canadas gun laws were implemented in the U.S. Cowan, Samantha. “By the Numbers: How Canada's Gun Laws Compare with Ours.” *TakePart*, 22 Oct. 2014, www.takepart.com/article/2014/10/22/numbers-how-canadas-gun-laws-compare-ours/. This website compares all of Canadas gun laws to that of the U.S. a few of the biggest are the waiting periods, background checks, and mandatory gun safety classes. All of these restrictions have proven effective with our northern friends, but there are still shootings in Canada. They are still nots exempt from these catastrophes because the one thing that cannot have a law against it is human nature.

No matter what laws are placed people will find ways to get guns in the end. That is why gun laws are pointless. Why should we take the guns out of law-abiding citizens leaving them in the hands of the criminals? The answer is we should not.