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The Second Amendment

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is a widely controversial subject in today's political world. With the rise in shootings and other gun-related crimes, Americans are concerned that this amendment is not doing enough to uphold the safety of our citizens, and some feel that its verbiage needs to be more restrictive in order to provide that safety. However, we cannot go down that route. The second amendment does more than just allow us to keep them, it allows us to protect ourselves in the event our lives are at stake. Safety is one of the most valuable concerns of the American people, so therefore it is crucial that the second amendment remains unchanged, as it will help to ensure safety in unpredictable times; otherwise, our country could head into deep troubling waters.

Why is the Second Amendment truly important? Because it gives us the right to protect ourselves when danger comes knocking on our front door. Picture yourself with a family, and an intruder breaks into your house in the middle of the night. You would without a doubt want to have something to protect you and your family with. The amendment verbatim speaks this for itself, stating "being necessary to the security of a free State," (Source A). Therefore, in order for a secure nation, it is crucial we have these freedoms to be able to protect ourselves and our families. As well, more restrictiveness in turn promotes more disorderly conduct. There are those who will want to defy those in control, and will do the complete opposite. For example, a

newspaper article in April 2009 published that "three of the seven shootings that took place in the last month occurred in states that don't allow the right to carry guns and accounted for nearly half of the 53 deaths," (Source B), highlighting that this restrictiveness led to even more trouble. That specific example to note is just in a few states; now try to picture that at a national level, happening in all states. That is something we one-hundred percent do not want to face, and most of us could all agree with that. By striking these laws down and restricting our personal protections, we invite mischief and chaos into our society. Thomas Paine details that "...it is proper that all should keep them up. Horrid mischief would ensue were one-half the world deprived of the use of them," (Source C). Without being able to protect each other, the bad would continue to get away with the bad, and the good would not be able to go on with the good.

The Second Amendment and gun control are some of the most controversial topics evident in today's society. With a rise in gun-related crimes, such as mass shootings, we have been tasked with evaluating whether or not our current laws are doing the best job possible to protect our fellow citizens. Some have proposed making these laws more restrictive, in an effort to combat the rise in easy access to weapons. The problem really is, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. You can't just give everyone complete access to weapons free-handedly, but you cannot completely deny their right to access them either for protection purposes. The right to keep and bear arms truly helps to keep us safe, especially in the event that someone threatens our life; we can defend ourselves and our loved ones. So what can we do about this? The important thing is to understand that we cannot take advantage of weapons; they are indeed dangerous. We must only use them for good, not use them for bad. America depends on it, because without these rights, we would lose our country in a heartbeat.