

Letters to a President

Runner-up Year 10 – Thomas Gibbs

Dear President Joe R. Biden

I am writing to you today to address an ever controversial and topical issue that concerns your country and its citizens. The topic in question is that of the Second Amendment within The Constitution of The United States, the right to bear arms. The fact that American citizens are able to bear arms in any situation is absolutely abhorrent, so much so, that the Second Amendment should be amended.

A mass shooting is defined as three or more people, excluding the perpetrator, being shot at one location within a short space of time or at roughly the same time. In The United States, around 30 people are killed each day, meaning that around 20,000 people are killed in The United States each year. Just recently, on 22nd March 2021, there was a mass shooting at a King Soopers superstore in Boulder Colorado, during which, 22 people were killed and several others were injured. On the 26th March 2021, 8 people were shot, 1 person was killed and 7 were injured at a party in Chicago, Illinois. On the 14th March 2021, 15 people were shot, 2 people were killed and 13 people were injured at a party in Chicago, Illinois. There are at least 4 mass shootings every 4 days and this is due to the accessibility of guns within The United States. The requirements to carry a gun are incredibly lackluster and in some cases, irrelevant. Only 15 of 50 states require the owner of a handgun to have a license or permit to openly carry it in public, and a staggeringly high amount of states, at 31, do not require the owner of a handgun to have a permit or license, however, it must be stated that in certain circumstances the handgun must be unloaded.

Morally, the fact that The Second Amendment within The Constitution of The United States allows people to bear firearms is absolutely sickening. Why does the object that allows people to be free also condemn them to a certain death? Why should the life of a human being be placed in the hand of another, so easily? Why is it acceptable to facilitate crime and corruption in the streets of a country claiming to be the 'Land of Opportunity'? These questions should be considered by all and great change should be made, or at least the preparations should be put in place.

Everyday in The United States, people are killed violently with firearms at the hands of others who have no authority in taking the life of another human being. You have the power to change this. You have the power to introduce stricter gun laws. You have the power to ban firearms. Do not hesitate to do so.

#amendthesecondamendment

Yours sincerely, Thomas Gibbs