

What Should and Should Not Be Allowed for Better Gun Control

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Civil rights and citizens' safety, being an integral part of people's lives and freedoms, are among the top priorities for state authorities. In the U.S., the government supports these rights through several laws, acts, and amendments, which guarantee that Americans will live in safety, have rights and freedoms, and can protect themselves alone or with the help of enforcement bodies. The Second Amendment states that Americans can possess firearms to defend themselves from militia and government tyranny; however, the document and its meaning were developed under the Civil War's influence. In this instance, gun control has a controversial position in civil society, as contemporary society has no reasons to fear tyranny or violence from other nations or militia. Therefore, the Gun Control Act should incorporate several changes to ensure that civilians can possess firearms, yet maintain safety within their communities and society in general.

Current Gun Control Issue

The current Gun Control Act has several sections that explain and discuss different firearms, their uses, and gun ownership responsibilities. While the document covers all available guns in the U.S., the document still lacks clarity about specific definitions related to pistols, semi-automatic rifles, and rifles ("Gun Control Act. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives", 2019). Such inaccuracies mislead Americans and gun owners, as U.S. definitions and international standards vary regarding the mentioned definitions and explanations.

The most prominent issue within the Gun Control Act is the definition and use of firearms for hunting and sport. For instance, the AR-15 rifle is marked as a sports gun; however, it can use ammo from the AK-47/72, which is marked in the U.S. as a rifle and cannot be used

for self-defense ("Ammunition Regulation", 2019). Also, rifles require a specific license, which is different from documents on sports guns and hunting rifles.

Another problem is the distinction between pistols, shotguns, and rifles. Some firearms have rifle butts, which allows one to mark the gun as a rifle and change its licensing category. Nonetheless, some guns, especially pistols and shotguns, may have a shooting stabilizer so that technically they are not automated or semi-automated rifles ("Gun Control Act. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives," 2019). Even though such an explanation is included in the Gun Control Act, the issue is still controversial, as common citizens may not know the distinct difference between a butt and stabilizer, as well as gun manufacturers may manipulate technical descriptions to lower the firearm category and make it more accessible for the masses.

In this case, it can be admitted that there is no clearance with ammunition standards and eligibility, as some bullets and calibers are allowed, and some are forbidden due to their ability to break armor. Nonetheless, returning to the AK-47/72 ammo, it is not marked as armor-piercing caliber, despite its speed and capability to penetrate kevlar and AR 500 armor plate AAA quality (Woodyard, 2019). As a result, Americans cannot possess ammo with clear armor-piercing purposes; however, they can purchase and obtain bullets that technically penetrate armor, kevlar, and steel plates.

Gun Control Improvements

The Gun Control Act has enough positive sections which support adequate firearm ownership and propose regulations and limitations which monitor illegal or prohibited weapons. Nonetheless, gun control pays little attention to ammunition and the consequences of weaponry

use. It is vital to establish new standards and perspectives on how weapons are used and which bullets they employ ("Gun Control", 2019). For instance, the AR-15 with caliber 5.56 has low penetrating power, while the exact same rifle with a 7.62 caliber can penetrate body armor and heavy steel plates ("Ammunition Regulation," 2019). In this case, the Gun Control Act should add more specifications about the definition of firearms and prohibit specific types of bullets due to their penetrating powers.

Another proposal for gun control regulations is the change of rifle butt and stabilizer explanations. Some weapons use shooting stabilizers, which technically cannot be marked as rifle butts; however, in practice, such weaponry is held with two hands, making them equal to semi-automated rifles, rifles, or even sniper rifles ("Key Federal Acts Regulating Firearms," 2019). In this case, the Gun Control Act should ban weapons that can have two different ways of shooting, as well as add several details about ammunition and calibers.

Conclusion

The gun control issue is a concerning point for U.S. citizens, as they are directly affected by definitions and explanations in the Act. Moreover, the use of firearms and ammunition requires more details and accuracy to mitigate and eliminate manipulations with technical descriptions, weaponry use, and weapons' purposes. What is more, the inconsistency in ammunition, caliber types, and armor-piercing standards disallow policymakers, gun owners, and enforcement bodies to adequately distinguish between eligible and prohibited weapons. As a result, the same gun can use permitted ammunition and an illegal one at the same time. From this perspective, the addition of specific standards and explanations on ammunition types and use should help to reduce the gun control debate's heat and deliver clarity about which weapons can

be obtained and which should be excluded from the market to prevent severe consequences and population safety distortions.

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