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In December 1791, congress ratified the second amendment which says: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This bill has fueled a long-running debate over gun control legislation and the rights of individual citizens to buy, own and carry firearms for years. The Second Amendment was created so that the states could form militias or armies to destroy insurrections or slave rebellions because the federal government had no standing military for a long time. The Founding Fathers were frightened by a standing army, because they feared coups.

Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were philosophers who greatly affected the way the Constitution was set up. Hobbes' ideas were that if there is no government, everyone is living in a state of nature, which essentially guarantees that life will be very short, and dangerous while it lasts. Of course, his conclusion was that there must be a powerful government to prevent the chaos of the state of nature. Later, Locke went on to modify the state of nature thought experiment. His theory was that everyone has the natural right to life, liberty, and property- even in the state of nature. However, there is no way of enforcing those rights in the state of nature, meaning that government was absolutely necessary. Locke stated that the only way a government can be moral is if it protects its citizens' natural rights, and never infringes upon them. So, if a government fails to protect its citizens' collective life, liberty, and property, the people have the responsibility to overthrow that government. Obviously, the idea of the American Revolution itself is given merit in Locke's theory. When thinking about how important it was for the colonies to be able to revolt, they added in the Second Amendment. The right to bear arms guarantees that if we ever had a government denying us our life, liberty, or property, for example the Boston Massacre or the quartering of soldiers, we could do the same as the founding fathers and protect our rights ourselves.

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The reason for the Second Amendment is anything but sinister. Americans have the right to own guns so that if the government ever becomes oppressive, we will be able to do something about it. If we had no weapons, there would be no possible way for us to protect ourselves from an inevitably powerful government. If we ever did find ourselves in an overwhelmingly oppressive society, we could do something. Petitions will not protect you from Big Brother. Neither will peaceful protests or boycotting. The only insurance we have for our own protection against the government is their inability to take away the right to bear arms. It is true that gun violence is a problem in the United States, but the solution here is not to get rid of guns. If we did get rid of guns, then it would be so much easier for tyrants to take over the U.S. and control the people

North Korea is not a free country because of their government and dictator. They phenomenally have less freedoms than we do here in the U.S. and they are pretty restricted and controlled by that dictator. Because the military and government in North Korea are the ones with guns, people fear those in political office and fear to stand up for freedom otherwise they may be killed or face substantial consequences. Criticism of the regime or the leadership in North Korea, if reported, is enough to make you and your family 'disappear' from society and end up in a political prison camp. It goes without saying that there is no free media inside the country. The only opinion allowed to be voiced inside the country is the regime's. Organized religion is seen as a potential threat to the regime and therefore nothing apart from token churches built as a facade of religious freedom for foreign visitors are allowed. Thousands of Buddhists and Christians have been purged and persecuted throughout the history of North Korea. People caught practicing or spreading religion in secret are punished extremely harshly, including by public execution or being sent to political prison camps. In North Korea, if your relative is persecuted for "anti-state" or "anti-socialist" crimes, then you and three generations of your family can be punished for it. The aim is to remove from society the whole family unit to prevent any dissent from

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emerging in the future, and also to deter martyrs who might sacrifice themselves for a political cause but would not want to sacrifice their whole family. The North Korean regime publicly executes citizens who have been accused of a variety of crimes, including petty theft. Whole communities, including children, are brought out to watch these executions, which are designed to instill fear amongst the people of doing anything that could be seen as against the regime's wishes. If the U.S. got rid of its guns completely, we would surely face the same fate as North Korean citizens. George Washington said "A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government.

Molon Labe, meaning "come and take [them]," is a classical expression of defiance. According to Plutarch, Xerxes 1, king of the Achaemenid Empire, demanded that the Spartans surrender their weapons. King Leonidas 1 responded with this phrase. Guns are like insurance for U. S. citizens. If anyone tries to take away our freedoms nationally or globally, we are ready to stand and fight them. Our forefathers left Great Britain and fought for their independence and freedoms using guns. As an American citizen, its in my being to stand up and fight for my freedoms using whatever means necessary, in this case guns. It was the great Benjamin Franklin who stated "those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Democrats have fought for years against the republicans regarding gun rights. Their belief is if we just get rid of the guns, America will have no more violence. Republicans believe that guns are essential in order to protect ourselves from tyranny as well as from rogue attackers. The problem is not the gun, the problem is the person using it in a terrible way. We could slice off male penises to prevent rape, but not every male is going to rape someone. We could make sugar and grease illegal to prevent people from getting fat, but not everyone eats like that. We could make everyone drive smart cars, but

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not everyone is a stupid driver or drives drunk. The problem is not the gun. People will always break the laws in order to fulfil their mad, violent ways.

As well as providing safety from the government, guns also provide safety from those fellow citizens who would try to harm us. I'd like to talk about why guns are important for personal safety in the home or on the streets. I believe that if we did stricken the gun laws here in America, it would only do harm to law abiding citizens who are only trying to protect themselves. Thieves, terrorists, psychopaths, and vagabonds don't obey laws. Terrorists can make bombs out of household items and can get a hold of any gun regardless of the laws that are set in place. If anything, we should encourage more people to carry guns in order to prevent these terrorist attacks and everyday physical and sexual attacks. If more people carried guns for personal protection, less people would step out of line and try to harm others. Below are examples of true stories of ordinary people using firearms to protect themselves.

An Arlington man was jogging when a truck pulled up beside him. A young man descended to the street and approached the jogger, displaying a gun and demanding money. Rather than comply, the jogger drew his legally carried pistol and fired on the robber, striking him several times in the groin area and putting him to flight. Police received a tip a short time later that led to the apprehension of the wounded robber, who quickly confessed. Police are investigating the incident as a robbery attempt with self-defense by the jogger, who is not expected to face charges.

---CBS TV Channel 11, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas

Two armed men broke into a Pine Hills residence and held the older female homeowner at gunpoint. Seeing what was happening, the homeowner's son hurriedly retrieved a pistol and fired on the burglars, killing one and seriously wounding the other, thus ending the incident.

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---WASH Channel 2, Orlando, Florida

A Redding man's granddaughter visited his home with her boyfriend for a weekend. As the visit progressed, the boyfriend became hostile and abusive. After seeing several incidents of abuse toward his granddaughter, the older man armed himself as a precaution, then told the boyfriend he was not welcome and must leave. When the younger man attacked the grandfather rather than comply with the request to leave, the older man shot him in self-defense. Though wounded, the younger man attacked again and was shot a second time, which ended the attack. The grandfather is not expected to face charges.

---KRCR Channel 7, Redding, California

Regarding personal home protection, I recently watched the newly released movie A Quiet Place. Spoiler alert! The movie ends with them finding the alien's weakness. The family applies the weakness to the aliens and then using a 12-gauge shotgun, the mother splatters the wall with the alien's brains! This was the moment everyone was hoping to see; vengeance and safety! It was dead silent following this scene and I wanted to yell out "Thank you Second Amendment!" in the middle of the movie theatre. Without a gun, this family would have been a nice dinner for these scary mutated aliens. Also, how many scary movies have you seen where if the person being chased would have been carrying, the movie would have ended in the first 15 minutes?

On a more serious note, I'm grateful for the freedoms we have here in America because of our forefathers who spilled the blood of tyrants in the name of freedom. I'm grateful to have the second amendment right so that I can personally defend myself against tyranny and those who would try to harm me. I believe that the solution to gun violence here in America is not making more laws and

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restrictions, but helping more people have concealed firearms ready at a moment's notice to take action if necessary.

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