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Ms. Hand

Literature and Language I

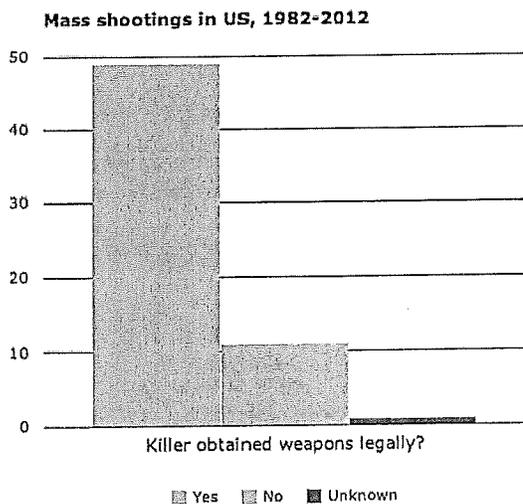
1 April 2013

Gun ban paper

Guns are used all over the world. The United States is one of the only countries having a dispute over citizens owning and carrying firearms for their own protection and recreational uses. Guns are often thought of as weapons used in crime but they are also used for hunting, personal protection, and recreational sports by law-abiding citizens. Ever since the government started to manufacture and sell firearms to the public they have been misused for crime. Now the government believes that a solution to the problem is to ban guns. Dianne Feinstein, author of the federal "assault weapon" and "large" magazine ban in 1994, has just proposed a new "assault weapon" ban consisting of a list of certain firearms. The government should only be allowed to regulate guns, not have the power to ban them.

Supporters of the gun ban say that guns are the reason for all the mass shootings in the United States. Fifteen out of twenty-five of the most devastating shootings around the world happened in the United States. A few of the more popular ones are Jovan Belcher, who shot his girlfriend and then himself and then there was Jacob Roberts who fired multiple shots in a mall. The most famous and recent shooting was in Connecticut, at Sandy Hook Elementary School, where twenty-seven people were killed; eighteen of them were children. The pathos of these tragedies causes people to think irrationally. These incidences may have involved guns but it did not force the shooter to do it. The government's solution is to ban the guns but what needs to happen is regulations on the

selling and distribution of firearms needs to be stricter. In most shootings the shooters accessed their weapons legally. Shown in Appendix A, from the Washington post, Mother Jones has tracked and graphed about sixty-one shootings from the past three decades. Appendix A shows her results on show the shooter had retrieved their weapon. The results show that more then three quarters of the shooters obtained their firearms legally.



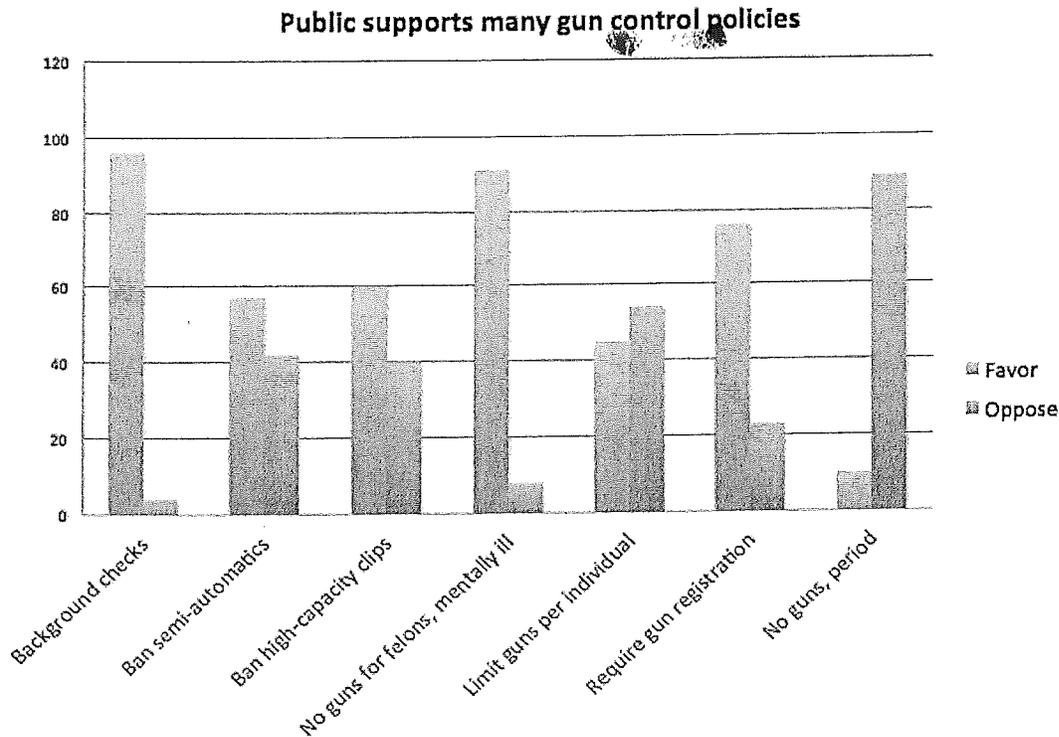
Another reason why some people are supporting the ban of certain firearms is because of Dianne Feinstein, a US senator, claims that a study for the Department of Justice found that Feinstein's 1994 ban resulted in an almost seven percent decreases in

Appendix A

shootings and murders. This may be true but the study also states "At best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines [on Feinstein's list] were never involved in more then a modest fraction of all gun murders"(1). The Department of Justice, the primary federal criminal investigation and enforcement agency of the United States, said this because most of the guns on Feinstein's list, in her 1994 and her 2013 gun ban are not typical firearms used by the public and in today's crimes. Also the Federal Bureau of Investigation said "8.5 times as many people are murdered with knives, blunt objects, and bare hands, as with rifles"(1).

People oppose the 2013 gun ban for multiple reasons. One is because a lot of people believe Dianne Feinstein, author of the "assault weapon" ban, lacks the amount of knowledge about guns to be able to purpose the gun ban. For example, in her 1994 gun ban, Feinstein listed "grenade launcher" as a prohibited feature for rifles. To further explain her lack of knowledge and how her new 2013 "assault weapon" ban is, by listing "rocket launcher". The National Firearms Act has such devices restricted and are not standard parts to the guns Feinstein included in her list of firearms to ban. This shows how much Feinstein needs to learn about firearms before purposing a gun ban when other gun laws are already in placed but need to be stricter and enforced.

Most people that oppose Feinstein's 2013 "assault weapon" ban support stricter regulations on guns. A CNN/ORC poll asked people their views on whether they favor or oppose an assortment of different policies to restrict gun ownership shown in Appendix B. The results show that five out of seven policies were voted in favor of making then stricter. When asked about the gun ban about 90 out of 100 people opposed the idea of no guns at all. All the policies people voted in favor of will make it more difficult for criminals to legally obtain firearms. They will also make it so guns stay in the safe hands of law-abiding citizens.



Appendix B

One of the biggest reasons people oppose Feinstein's 2013 "assault weapon" and "large" magazine ban is because it's unconstitutional. The second amendment of the US constitution, states, " A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free states, the right to bare arms, shall not be infringed"(Klein 1). It gives people the right to carry and own firearms. Feinstein exercised this right by carrying a handgun on her fir personal protection, while being an advocate of banning handguns, before being elected to the senate. Handguns are the most common guns used in both legal and illegal activities. Feinstein's list, of nearly 1000 firearms, does not contain a single handgun. So 2013 gun ban wont have much of an effect on crime rates in the united states. The executive director of the Violence Policy Center, Josh Sugarmann gives his impute on the gun ban and his views on stricter gun laws.

"A gun-control movement worthy of the name would insist that President Clinton move beyond his proposals for controls ... and immediately call on Congress to

pass far-reaching industry regulation like the Firearms Safety and Consumer Protection Act ... [which] would give the Treasury Department health and safety authority over the gun industry, and any rational regulator with that authority would ban handguns."(1)

Sugarmann had tried to explain that Feinstein is wrong about banning "assault weapons" and not including a single handgun but making claims on reducing the crime rates.

There are many more reasons as to why Feinstein's 2013 gun ban is pointless. One is the fact that the amount of guns owned by the public does not have much of an effect on the nation's murder and crime rates. 1995 to 2011, the number of models in the United states that Feinstein's gun ban lists, rose by over two and a half million. During the same time the nation's murder rates decreased by forty-eight percent. At that time there began to be more regulations on guns and stricter laws for gun ownership, which proves that to help further decrease crime and murder rates, guns need to be further regulated not ban.

Guns have many purposes but have also been miss used for murder and crime. To try and solve the problem, Dianne Feinstein, a US senator, has proposed a gun ban. They believe that the ban will prevent criminals from having accessible firearms. This may be true but it also takes guns away from law-abiding citizens. To really solve the problem the government needs to regulate guns more to make it harder for criminals to obtain firearms. To ban guns is opposed by most of America and most importantly it is unconstitutional. That is why the government should not have the ability to ban guns, only the power to regulate them.