

Where do common sense and guns meet?



Gun control will always be a hot topic and everyone has their opinions, here are a few of mine

by David Haddon

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When the founding fathers drew up the constitution, they did not have AR-15 rifles with magazines that can hold more bullets than they could make in a day. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Time and changes in the condition and constitution of society may require occasional and corresponding modifications." With the Parkland, FL shooting, the debate about Gun Control has heated up again, and cooled down again, as it has before and will continue to do so. Politicians are unwilling to step forward and be brave enough to stand up to the unchanging NRA viewpoints about [gun laws](#) to the detriment of our society.

It is up to the people to stand up and show the NRA and cowardly politicians that we need action, not more inaction.

Corporations are beginning to act

With the unwillingness of Congress to pass reasonable gun laws due to the pressure brought to them by the NRA, companies are beginning to take action and do what's right. In a recent interview with ABC News, Dicks Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack, who admits to being a gun owner, sat down with his management team and they unanimously agreed to stop selling assault rifles, as well as stop selling any type of guns to anyone under the age of 21, and stop selling high-capacity magazines. Nicholas Cruz, the teenager who killed 17 students at Stoneman Douglas High School, reportedly bought a shotgun at Dicks Sporting Goods.

While this was not the gun or type of weapon used during the shooting, it was a wake-up call to the CEO and his stockholders. "When we looked at that we said, the systems that are in place across the board just aren't effective enough to keep us from selling someone a gun like that. So we decided that we're not going to sell the assault-type rifles any longer." Despite the potential loss of profit or expected backlash from gun owners, Mr.

Stack and his company decided that it is more important to do the right thing. Tired of seeing the inactivity from Congress, the people are beginning to take action.

Other companies such as Wal-mart and Krogers have enacted a similar ban on guns and have started implementing age restrictions. I feel that we as a society have reached a point where we are tired of the ineffectiveness of our political system and are taking matters into their own hands. This is what will make America great again.

Not all states are alike

Even in today's society, the needs of the people in one state are not the same as another. States like Alaska, where hunting is a way of life, would not welcome an age restriction law, nor would they need one. responsible gun owners under the age of 21 are capable of buying hunting rifles for the purpose of hunting, but why do they need an assault rifle to hunt? Did Yogi learn how to shoot back or wear body armor? I believe this is a key factor when it comes to Washington acting on better gun control. If you raise the legal gun-buying age to 21, states like Alaska and Montana will suffer, but it would benefit other states where hunting is not a way of life.

In my opinion, the federal government should enact certain national laws that affect guns but allow individual states to determine what age limit to set and type of guns they can sell.

Common sense gun laws

Now, these are just my thoughts about gun control and in no way am I claiming to be an expert on this or what's right for you and your family, but I feel these [common-sense gun laws](#) would be a good thing.

1. The federal government passes a law where you cannot buy a gun from a state where you are not a legal resident. This will prevent someone who lives in one state that restricts the buying of guns to anyone under the age of 21 to drive across state lines to buy a gun where it is legal or buy a gun from a gun show, which due to the Brady law loophole, allows private owners to sell guns without a background check.

2. Ban all assault-type weapons for civilians. These guns are built for one thing: Killing. And killing in high numbers. The AR-15 can hold from 30 to 100 rounds per magazine and while it is a semi-automatic, you can legally purchase a bump stock to turn the gun to fully automatic, allowing you to fire 13 rounds per second. An exception can be made if they have served in the military. They can own an assault rifle, but they would be unable to buy additional assault rifles if they are no longer an active member of the military.

3. Prevent gun shows from selling any type of gun without a full background check and they must follow the laws of the states.

4. Limit the amount of ammunition that can be purchased at one time and ban specialty ammunition from civilians, such as armor-piercing bullets.

The NRA and Washington are facing an uphill battle as they watch as everyday citizens are beginning to see what's right and take action. The brave kids from Parkland are adding their voices to the fight along with their parents and friends. NBC News reports that 66 percent of Americans support stricter gun control. This does not mean they want to disarm every single person in the US, they just support better laws to prevent someone who is capable of killing another human being without thought from owning guns that are capable of killing large numbers of people within the shortest amount of time. Let's face it, guns are always going to be around and if someone wants a gun bad enough they will find it, but let's make it as difficult as possible for those types of people, while still allowing responsible individuals to own non-assault type weapons.