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### Gun Laws: Where I Stand

*“I think it’s important for us to recognize that we’ve got a tradition of handgun ownership and gun ownership generally. And a lot of law-abiding citizens use it for hunting, for sportsmanship, and for protecting their families. We also have a violence on the streets that is the result of illegal handgun usage. And so I think there is nothing wrong with a community saying we are going to take those illegal handguns off the streets. And cracking down on the various loopholes that exist in terms of background checks for children, the mentally ill. We can have reasonable, thoughtful gun control measure that I think respect the Second Amendment and people’s traditions.”*

*April 16, 2008, Democratic Primary Debate, National Constitution Center in Philadelphia*

Society has taken the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, the right to bear arms, to a whole new level. The government is allowing too many irresponsible citizens a CCW permit; therefore guns are falling into the wrong hands. Twice in the past two years the gun issue has reached the nations highest court. The Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution protects an individual’s right to own a gun for personal use; however the issues are getting too personal. Later on they adjusted the laws but the decision didn’t specify what kind of gun laws could be applied to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. The real challenge is getting law-abiding citizens to access it. The government needs to be stricter on people who freely have guns in their homes.

“We won’t be able to stop every violent act, but there is even one thing we can do to prevent any of these events, we have a deep obligation, all of us, to try” (Obama).

The problem with today’s world is we have too much leeway when it comes to crime consequences. When a citizen commits a felony they should expect to face jail time. However, some do not and that gives others the okay to try something illegal and or cruel. The suspect’s who face time get out on bond and then never return to a court date. A suggestive technique to help Barack Obama could be for him to adjust the background checks on people before they receive a gun permit (CCW).

Many gun owners purchase guns and indeed use them responsibly for family protection, sporting, and hunting. Somehow these handguns still wind up in the hands of violent citizens and or non-citizens. Handguns are distributed illegally on the streets quite frequently in poverty based neighborhoods. Keeping guns out of the wrong hands can increase home violence by practically 90%. The 12 percent of people who purchased handguns from a pawn shop without a background check could of have prevented some violent crimes. The government should also crack down on transfer of guns from family members to use for hunting and protection purposes.

We need to do more to prevent easy access of instruments of mass violence such as the Sandy Hooks incident. The change of such catastrophes starts within our own homes.