What is the current status of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as recently interpreted by the Supreme Court, and what kinds of restrictions (if any) should be put on gun ownership in America?

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In 2008, The Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment allows an individual the right to keep and bear arms, and provisions banning handguns and requiring firearms in the home either disassembled or locked violate this right. (1)

The controversy is that many people believe that because the U.S. Supreme Court has never voted against any piece of legislation on Second Amendment grounds, making it the only amendment that isn't enforced. Justices often disagree on if the amendment was designed to protect the right to bear arms as an individual or was meant to be for a regulated community militia only.

There used to be several different views, but as more and more mass shootings and domestic violence homicides occurred there are now just what seems to be two sides. There is those who own guns and those who do not.

The second amendment is often interpreted as is a basic right in the same fashion as the right to free speech. There are so many different angles and friction among those who think differently than each other that I am not certain any solution will ever make everyone happy.

I have a different perspective on this subject. As a national advocate for the prevention of domestic violence, I have many personal and close friends who have been shot by their spouses, so their side of this is skewed because had their spouses not been offered this right, based on their back gounds or histories that they may not have faced death.

My position on this is a mix of both. I believe that law abiding citizens should be allowed to bear arms. As a news reporter, I have written countless home burglaries and encounters with armed criminals that even someone like me, who does not own guns, has considered getting one.

As these mass shootings continue and the homicides, especially in the state of Utah continue to rise, we have to look at how people are getting their hands on the guns and if the 2nd amendment has anything to do with this. Will changing it matter ?

As someone who works for a major network media, I am very careful of the information I get online from others. I am fully aware of the opinion based articles and the factual ones. For this research I found an article that helps explain exactly my point. It was written and published on Huffington Post (2). Whom I know is a very upstanding media source. They had a discussion with UCLA Law Professor Adam Winkler who made this statement:

“While the amendment is properly understood to protect an individual right to have arms, it also permits many forms of gun control. Too many Americans believe we can have a right to bear arms or gun control, but not both. The Second Amendment’s history and text tell us otherwise. We can have both — and for most of American history, we have regulated guns.”

This is exactly the point. We can have the right to bear arms and we can have gun control. But why have so many slipped through the cracks of background checks and things that should have stopped them from legally obtainin guns.

Another argument is that if we crack down on the gun rights, people will till get guns on the street. Yes that is partially true but many people might not be able to obtain them as fast and the desire to kill someone or mass people might subside by the time they do. And many times the fear of buying from someone undercover could possibly scare them off.

In the countless posts that I have seen from my friends who have been shot, no one has ever said that law abiding citizens should lose the right to bear arms however many gun owners will argue that is the intention of those asking for gun control. It is not. And I stand here to tell you that there has to be a better way to stop those who are deemed unable to be in possession of a firearm not be permitted to do so legally. THIS is the debate, regardless of what others think it is. My position in this is that we have to make some changes to the laws, we have to do something because doing nothing is making this country very vulnerable. I have become close friends with many homicide victim’s families and many of them would still have their loves ones if laws had been in place.

In Utah the risk of a homicide in a domestic violence increases by 500% when there is a gun present. (3) We have had two times as many DV homicides so far this year than last, what does that say about not changing the laws ?

Regardless of the Supreme Court justices not being willing to step on the NRA, who as we know has their hands deep into the political arena, they cannot and from what I know deny that we have a problem in this country.

The time for change in gun control and reform to stop criminals from obtaining guns is now. Maybe, just maybe, if we had them, many others would still be alive.

1. Acosta, L. (2015) Library of Congress , Retrieved from https://www.loc.gov/law/help/second-amendment.php

2. Feraru, V. (2017) Guns, The Second Amendment and mass shootings, retrieved from https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/mass-shootings-the-second-amendment-and-the-political_us

3. 2017, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition statistics and reports. Retrieved from http://udvc.org/utah-domestic-violence-information/statistics-reports