

# The Delray Democrat

## Repeal the Second Amendment<sup>1</sup>

*David Kulick*

Most countries have kids (and adults) playing violent video games, and all countries have people with mental health issues. All countries have people who are depressed and people who are angry. In spite of these issues, the only direct correlation between countries and gun deaths is the number of guns in the country. The more guns in a country, the more people die by guns.

Given these facts, the logical means of reducing the gun death rate is by reducing the number of guns. The US is a bit handicapped in this obvious solution by the Second Amendment. If we had a Supreme Court that could read, they would understand that the Second Amendment is all about militias.

The right wing likes to talk about the original intent of the founders, and the Second Amendment was written at a time of battles against the Native Americans as well as slave revolts. The founders also forbid the establishment of a standing army, so the job fell to militias. That was the purpose of the Second Amendment. If we really want to go by original intent, the right to bear arms at that time was referring to muskets, not AK47s or even a handgun.

The right wing talks of guns as a check on the government, but the founders never intended personal firearms for use against the government. Armed rebellion against the government is known as treason.

Mass murder gets the headlines, but two thirds of all gun deaths are suicides. 95% of non-gun suicide attempts fail but not surprisingly, 85% of gun suicides are successful. Also not surprisingly, the US gun suicide rate is ten times that of other high income countries.

Most suicide attempts are a cry for help from someone who is often momentarily depressed, and making it so easy to succeed is unfortunate.

Since the Supreme Court can't read, perhaps the beginning of a solution is to repeal the Second Amendment. This isn't unprecedented; we made a mistake with the Eighteenth Amendment (prohibition) and repealed it with the Twenty-First. In fact, it was the Second Amendment that made possible the overwhelming violence that marked much of the Prohibition era. Perhaps the movie industry would have been set back a little if they had to shoot knife fights in the streets instead of gun battles, but we could have paid that price.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, October 2019, p.3.

Repealing the Second Amendment wouldn't mean that the government instantly comes to confiscate your guns since repeal alone wouldn't outlaw guns. Repealing would make it easier to restrict gun ownership and usage, and new laws that make sense would be easier to implement. It is time to consider repeal.