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## ISP EXEMPLAR

### Should Guns Be Banned?

The issue of gun control was addressed recently because of a violent act in Newtown, Connecticut. A man with a gun went into an elementary school and shot 20 young students and six adults while they were in their classrooms. After reading some news reports about this situation, I have come to the conclusion that guns should not be banned entirely, but that gun holders must follow specific rules. Guns should be kept away from the mentally ill, gun buys should have a background check before a gun is sold to them, and no one should be allowed to buy fully automatic weapons. Therefore, guns should not be banned, but there should be stricter laws.

First, some people who are mentally ill should not have access to any type of firearms. This is because they might have difficulty with their emotions and want to hurt people. The governor of New York State said, “people who are mentally ill should not have access to any guns, that’s common sense.” People with mental illness cannot distinguish right from wrong. For example, the shooter at Sandyhook elementary school was a person with a mental illness, and he ended up shooting a bunch of innocent people. Therefore, you should not give guns to the mentally ill.

Second, when people get their firearms license or buy a gun, they should get a thorough background check of their past history. They should get a background check because something violent could have happened in the person’s past. “Right now some 40 percent of gun sales take

place without background checks” and that’s not good. Why would we ever think about selling a gun to someone who has already been dangerous in the past? Clearly, more background checks could prevent potential problems in the future.

Last, no civilian person should ever be allowed to buy a fully automatic weapon. It has way too much power for a gun. The shooter at Sandyhook who killed “twenty 6 and 7 year-old school children and six educators...open fire with an automatic weapon.” That’s why people should not have automatic weapons, because it’s too powerful and it blows off a lot of rounds in a short period of time. If the shoot had a less powerful gun he would not have been able to do so much damage. Therefore, no person should be allowed to buy this kind of gun, ever.

All these reasons should that while guns should not be banned, people should follow a strict set of rules like keeping guns away from the mentally ill, check buyers history before selling them a gun, and not ever selling automatic weapons. Maybe if these rules are enforced, there will be less tragedies like the one recently in Sandyhook.