

Boston College High School

Model UN Conference

XXXIII

March 1, 2025



# United States Senate: Senate Investigative Committee:

## Gun Control



Chair: Chris Curran '25

Co-Chair: Aidan Tyne '26

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Letter from the Chair.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Letter From the Co-Chair.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Background.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Current Issue.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Questions to Consider.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Positions.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Works Cited.....</b>	<b>15</b>



## Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Chris Curran, I am a senior here at BC High and it is an immense honor and privilege to serve as the chair of this committee. Other than Model UN, I do many other activities. I am involved in the State Student Advisory Council which influences the state government on education policy. I have also started CIAC, a representative body for Jesuit high schools in the East Province. I also play soccer and tennis here at BCHigh. In terms of Model UN I have experienced much in terms of attending conferences but this is my first time chairing a committee, although I did co-chair this senate committee last year. In that essence, I have experience with the senate committee and am here to answer any questions or concerns.

This committee will offer a lot to all delegates and I am excited to see what you all will think of it. But I will say one thing: being present on this committee is one thing, but being intentional about how you want to participate is another. There is a lot to take from a committee like this, we are dealing with important issues. So I hope you all enjoy this committee and Aidan and I will do our best to foster an efficient, positive, and welcoming environment for all delegates.

Thank you,

Chris Curran '25, Chair

[cj.curran25@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:cj.curran25@students.bchigh.edu)



## Letter From the Co-Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Aidan Tyne, I am a junior here at BC High and I am honored to serve as the co-chair of this committee. In addition to Model UN, I do many other activities here at BCH. These activities include DECA where I serve as president and as a member of the varsity soccer team for the last two years. I am also in concert choir plus I've been an enrollment officer for the school for all three years of high school thus far.

I am thrilled to co-chair this committee because I've been interested in the Senate's gun control policies for a long time. This is an incredibly important issue for our generation and it has been quite a while since gun legislation has been brought to the senate floor. I would like to see this legislation as well as other important issues represented in Washington D.C. Perhaps the delegates can help influence the government both locally and nationally. Chris and I hope to foster a positive environment for all delegates involved in this committee with the ultimate goal to learn while having an enjoyable time. Please never hesitate to ask us questions or bring your concerns to us as we are here to assist you and make all delegates feel welcome.

Thank you,

Aidan Tyne '26, Co-Chair

[ac.tyne26@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:ac.tyne26@students.bchigh.edu)

## Introduction



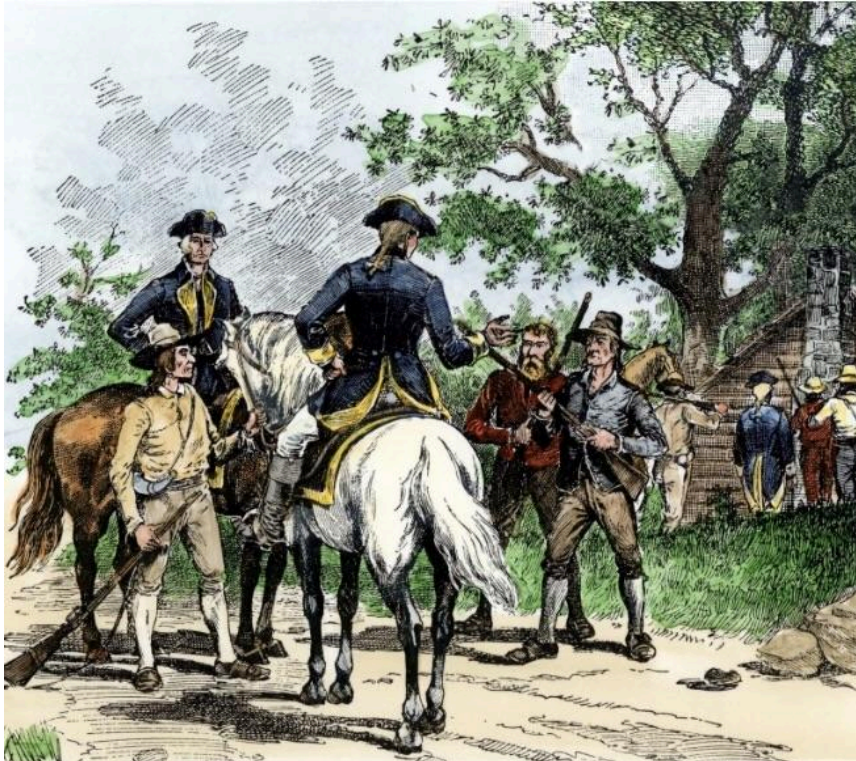
The Senate Gun Control Committee focuses on the pressing issue of gun violence and the regulation of firearms within the United States. The committee's primary objective is to evaluate and propose legislation aimed at reducing gun-related deaths, improving background checks, regulating gun ownership, and addressing the broader public safety concerns surrounding firearm access.

Delegates will assume the roles of U.S. Senators, representing various political ideologies and regions, and will engage in vigorous debate to craft comprehensive and balanced policies that address public safety while respecting constitutional rights. Key topics include assault weapon bans, universal background checks, mental health screenings, concealed carry laws, and gun trafficking prevention.

As part of the committee, delegates will collaborate to form coalitions, navigate partisan divides, and ultimately work towards viable solutions that reflect both public concern and constitutional principles. The committee will strive for meaningful progress on this highly divisive issue, with the goal of drafting a legislative framework that balances the needs of national security, public safety, and individual rights.

## Background

The issue of gun laws has been a central and often polarizing topic in the political, legal, and social history of the United States. Rooted in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states, *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,"* the interpretation and implementation of gun rights and regulations have evolved over time. This evolution reflects the nation's shifting views on public safety, individual freedoms, and governmental authority. In colonial America, firearms were integral to daily life, serving purposes such as hunting, self-defense, and militia service. The Second Amendment, adopted in 1791, was influenced by the English Bill of Rights (1689) and the need for militias in the absence of a large standing army. During westward expansion, firearms symbolized self-reliance and survival. However, urbanization in the late 1800s led to the first notable gun regulations. Laws such as the 1871 Tennessee "Army and Navy Law" restricted handgun ownership among certain groups, reflecting societal tensions and racial inequalities.





The 1934 **National Firearms Act (NFA)**. was the first major federal gun control law in the United States, enacted in response to escalating gang violence during Prohibition and high-profile crimes involving automatic weapons and other concealable firearms. The NFA imposed strict regulations on the ownership, manufacture, and transfer of specific categories of firearms, including machine guns, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, silencers, and "destructive devices" such as grenades. It required owners to register these weapons with the federal government, undergo background checks, and pay a \$200 tax for each transaction—a significant sum at the time. The law aimed to discourage private ownership of these weapons by making it financially and administratively burdensome, without outright banning them. By targeting weapons commonly used in organized crime, the NFA laid the groundwork for future federal gun control measures, marking a shift toward government regulation of firearms as a means of enhancing public safety.



The 1968 **Gun Control Act (GCA)** was a landmark piece of legislation passed in response to a series of high-profile assassinations, including those of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Act aimed to curb gun violence by regulating interstate firearms commerce, prohibiting the sale of firearms to felons, minors, and individuals with mental illnesses. It also introduced licensing requirements for gun manufacturers, importers, and dealers, as well as mandatory serial numbers on firearms to





enhance traceability. The GCA marked a significant expansion of federal oversight in gun regulation, focusing on keeping firearms out of the hands of those deemed a threat to public safety.



The 1993 **Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act** mandated federal background checks and a waiting period for firearm purchases from licensed dealers. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court affirmed an individual's right to own a firearm for self-defense within the home, marking a significant shift in Second Amendment interpretation. High-profile mass shootings have intensified calls for stricter gun control measures, such as universal background checks, bans on assault weapons, and red flag laws. Opponents of stricter regulations argue that such measures infringe upon constitutional rights and fail to address the root causes of gun violence. Gun violence disproportionately affects marginalized communities, raising concerns about equitable enforcement of gun laws and systemic factors contributing to violence. States vary widely in their gun laws, creating a patchwork system that complicates enforcement and policy effectiveness. The U.S. Senate has played a critical role in shaping gun laws, from debating national regulations to approving funding for law enforcement and violence prevention programs. Its composition often reflects the broader political divide on this issue, making bipartisan compromise both challenging and essential for legislative progress.

## Current Issue



A current issue in the U.S. Senate on gun control revolves around attempts to legislate around undetectable firearms and so-called "ghost guns." Recently, a provision in the Senate's version of the 2024 **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** aimed to make the **Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988** permanent. This Act prohibits the manufacture and sale of firearms that cannot be detected by metal detectors or X-ray machines. However, this provision was removed in final negotiations between the House and Senate due to concerns about overreach and potential misuse by future presidential administrations.

Advocates for stricter gun control argue that permanent regulations are necessary to address the growing prevalence of 3D-printed guns, which may evade detection. Opponents claim that such measures could lead to broader restrictions on gun rights and reduce congressional oversight over firearm regulations in the future. The Senate is also considering



broader reforms, such as measures addressing background checks and the regulation of firearm parts, signaling that gun control remains a highly debated topic on Capitol Hill.

Another nearly sweeping piece of legislation was the **Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act**. This proposed legislation seeks to expand background checks, close loopholes on private sales, ban assault weapons, and improve data collection on gun violence. It also proposes stricter regulations for gun manufacturers and sellers. The Protection for Domestic Violence Victims is also something that is deemed essential for members of the Senate. Recent proposals aim to include stalking and dating violence as disqualifiers for gun ownership under federal law, an expansion of the "boyfriend loophole" addressed partially in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022. There have also been calls for the funding of gun violence protection. These calls, if fulfilled, would allocate more resources to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study gun violence as a public health issue, with the goal of creating data-driven policy solutions. These issues reflect broader debates over balancing gun rights with public safety measures, often sparking partisan disagreements on the extent and scope of new regulations

## Questions to Consider

1. What are the root causes of the modern-day gun control crisis and what is relevant about the history of the United States when it comes to gun control?
2. How have recent gun control policies impacted communities and individuals?
3. What are the ethical considerations in addressing gun control, and how can they be balanced with national interests? Furthermore, what role does Amendment II play?
4. What types of guns should be banned in America and what guns should be kept for self defense?
5. What is one practical, bipartisan, and logical proposal based on these key topics: assault weapon bans, universal background checks, mental health screenings, concealed carry laws, and gun trafficking prevention.

## Positions (119th Congress)

Democrats:

1. Mark Kelly
2. Maggie Hassan
3. Adam Schiff
4. Andy Kim
5. Cory Booker
6. Chuck Schumer
7. Raphael Warnock
8. John Fetterman
9. Elizabeth Warren
10. Ed Markey
11. Tim Kaine
12. Mark Warner
13. Elissa Slotkin
14. Gary Peters
15. Maria Cantwell
16. Patty Murray
17. Amy Klobuchar

Republicans:

1. Tim Sheehy
2. Dan Sullivan
3. Lisa Murkowski
4. Pete Ricketts
5. Tom Cotton
6. Ted Budd
7. Rick Scott
8. Kevin Cramer
9. Markwayne Mullin
10. David McCormick
11. Todd Young
12. Chuck Grassley
13. Lindsey Graham
14. Tim Scott
15. Mitch McConnell
16. Rand Paul
17. John Kennedy
18. Ted Cruz
19. Susan Collins
20. Mike Lee
21. Jim Justice

Independents:

1. Angus King
2. Bernie Sanders



## Works Cited

- News, A. B. C. “Understanding the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and Why It Ended.” *ABC News*, [abcnews.go.com/amp/US/understanding-1994-assault-weapons-ban-ended/story?id=65546858](https://abcnews.go.com/amp/US/understanding-1994-assault-weapons-ban-ended/story?id=65546858).
- “Gun Violence Prevention | U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.” *Www.blumenthal.senate.gov*, [www.blumenthal.senate.gov/about/issues/gun-violence-prevention](http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/about/issues/gun-violence-prevention).
- “Text - S.3407 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act of 2023.” *Congress.gov*, 2023, [www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3407/text](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3407/text).
- “Gun Violence | U.S. Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts.” *Www.markey.senate.gov*, [www.markey.senate.gov/priorities/gun-violence](http://www.markey.senate.gov/priorities/gun-violence).
- Travis, David. “Impacts of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban: 1994–96.” *Displays*, vol. 20, no. 4, Dec. 1999, p. 163, [www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/173405.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/173405.pdf), [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0141-9382\(99\)00018-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0141-9382(99)00018-9).
- *BRADY HANDGUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT of 1993*. May 2015. <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nics/general-information/nics-overview-brochure#:~:text=ACT%20OF%201993-,The%20Brady%20Handgun%20Violence%20Preven>





tion%20Act%20of%201993%20(Brady%20Act,checks%20on%20prospective%20firearm%20transferees.

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. “Gun Control Act | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.” *Atf.gov*, 21 Oct. 2022, [www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/gun-control-act](http://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/gun-control-act).
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. “National Firearms Act .” *Atf.gov*, ATF, 7 Apr. 2020, [www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/national-firearms-act](http://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/national-firearms-act).
- “H.R.4445 - 100th Congress (1987-1988): Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988.” *Congress.gov*, 2019, [www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/4445](http://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/4445).