



Prohibition on Firearms

- Institutes a 10-year prohibition on possessing a firearm to a person who falls in either or both of the following categories:
 - Convicted of 2 or more misdemeanors in 3 years, involving the possession of certain controlled substances for sale or vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated
 - Convicted of 3 or more specified offenses in 10 years related to driving under the influence of alcohol
- Establishes an additional 10-year prohibition to any person who commits another aforementioned misdemeanor during the initial 10-year prohibition period
- Violation of any of these prohibitions punishable as a misdemeanor

MAP's Perspective on S.B. 55

MAP supports this bill. By expanding the conditions for restricting firearms, SB-55 will limit access to weapons from individuals inclined to commit violent acts, specifically those who have been convicted of misdemeanors relating to misuse of controlled substances. A study conducted by the BMJ determined that alcohol is a significant predictor in future violence from individuals purchasing firearms. Almost a third of gun owners with prior alcohol convictions went on to commit a violent or firearm-related crime.

When thousands of innocent lives are being lost simply due to a lack of restrictions on individuals with violent records and tendencies possessing firearms, MAP speaks for our generation in adamant support of S. 55.

Youth Perspective on Gun Violence

We believe that gun violence is an issue that affects our most fundamental right to life. We should have the ability to attend school and live without threats of violence or death. We stand as a unified front to defend this right and advocate for those who have already suffered as a result of poor gun safety laws, inadequate regulations, and a lack of action.

Moreover, gun violence is detrimental to youth's mental health. Situations that are perceived as unpredictable and uncontrollable are much more likely to bring on high levels of helplessness, anxiety, and fear. Due to this, youth often feel helpless, fearful from witnessing shootings or even because of preparative measures such as lock-down drills.

Our generation believes that this is not up for debate: enough is enough. It's time to end gun violence.

Catholic Perspective on this Issue

Gun violence's far reaching impact overlooks the value intrinsic to every human life. The terrible atrocities that have been perpetrated by mass shootings have devastated thousands of communities and families. Violence that inflicts an incredible amount of suffering, grief, and death is simply intolerable in any society.

As such, the USCCB consistently and vehemently urges policy changes in the wake of gun violence tragedies that have become *normalized* and far too commonplace. Specifically, the USCCB supports measures that control the sale and use of firearms, along with universal background checks for gun purchases.

