



### Gun Violence Prevention Research Act

- Authorizes the grant of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention
  - Appropriates to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025 under the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.)

### MAP's Perspective on S. 184

**MAP supports this bill.** Once it has grant money, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be able to effectively research the issue of gun violence, allowing for the development of policy solutions to mitigate our nation's gun violence epidemic. Because of the NRA-backed Dickey Amendment (1996), the CDC has been effectively barred from conducting research on gun violence prevention until the law was repealed in 2018. However, funding is still yet to be reinstated.

This lack of research funding leaves the issue of gun violence in America misunderstood, and without the complete data needed to understand the full impact of the problem, as well as the means to alleviate it. Filling these data gaps by funding gun violence prevention research is necessary to truly understand the full impact of gun violence in the United States.

As students, we recognize the importance of research and data collection in acquiring a holistic understanding of a problem at hand. Gun violence is no exception. But without adequate funding, such research cannot be conducted, leaving policymakers to rely on conjecture or dated information.

### Youth Perspective on Gun Violence

We believe that gun violence is a life issue: one 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 are often left with overwhelming feelings of stress and fear from witnessing shootings, or even from preparative measures such as lock-down drills.

Our generation believes plain and simple: enough is enough. It's time to end gun violence.

### Catholic Perspective on this Issue

Gun violence fails to respect the inherent dignity and value of every human life. The terrible atrocities that have resulted from mass shootings have stolen many innocent lives in an instant. 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 far too frequent in our nation. Specifically, the USCCB supports measures that control the sale and use of firearms, along with universal background checks for gun purchases.

