

MADMUN XV



The United States Senate Background Guide

Letter from the Dais

Hello senators,

We are writing this letter to let you know what will occur at the Senate meeting of MADMUN, 2024. As you know, two crucial and current issues in our Nation are currently Gun Violence and Women's Reproductive Rights.

With gun violence in schools and other areas at an increase, we must discuss the issue of children's safety and how to help them cope after tragedy.

With the overturning of Roe V. Wade, the debate of providing free contraception (a few examples if you don't know what contraception are materials like birth control or condoms) has been brought to the table, along with the idea of re-establishing Roe V. Wade. But with the resources you currently have, you'll have to focus on the debate of free Contraception until more funds can be allocated. We are fully aware that your beliefs on these issues as politicians are different. But we must discuss them and that is what we shall do. Listed below is a bit of information to get you started on your research and a bit more context of what you will be debating.

We encourage you to do a bit of research on your own as well, along with doing research on the Senator assigned to you. We wish you the best, and see you at MADMUN 2024!

Sincerely,

The Senate Dias

Phoenix Ogodogu (Co-Chair), Aleeza Pasha (Co-Chair), And Mason Walker (Sim)

Topic A: Gun Rights and Gun Violence (Focus on Schools)

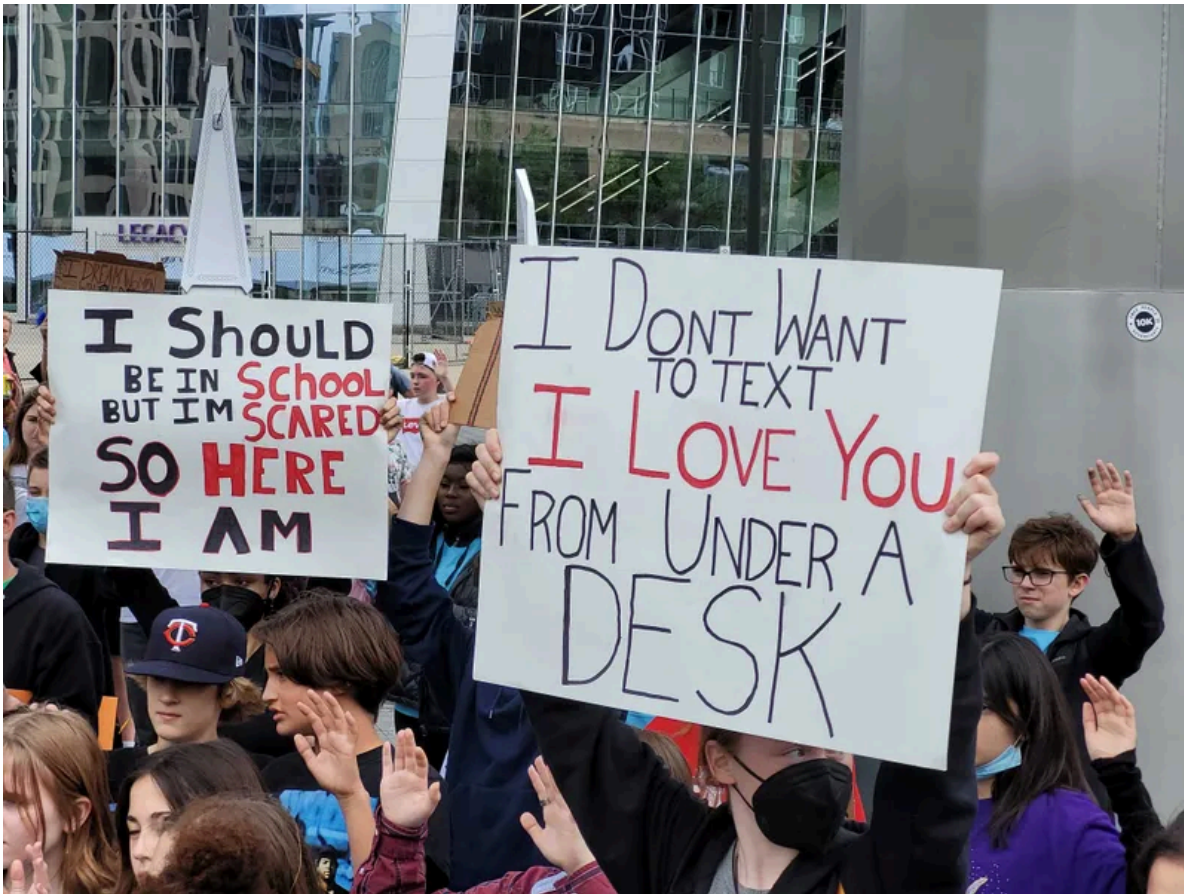


Photo credit Wambui Kamau/ Audacy

1. Topic Background

1.1 Historical Overview

The issue of gun rights and gun violence in the United States has been a contentious topic for decades, particularly concerning school environments. The debate primarily revolves around the balance between Second Amendment rights and public safety, with significant focus on school shootings and gun-related incidents in educational institutions.

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1791, guarantees the right to keep and bear arms. This amendment has been a cornerstone in American legal and cultural contexts, but its interpretation has evolved, particularly with regard to the regulation of firearms and their impact on public safety.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, the rise in school shootings has intensified the debate. The 1999 Columbine High School shooting marked a significant moment, leading to increased national awareness and subsequent legislative actions. Despite

various attempts to address gun violence, including the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (1994-2004), high-profile incidents like the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and the 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting have highlighted ongoing challenges.

1.2 Current Situation

Gun violence in America, particularly in schools, remains a critical issue. Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in school shootings, leading to heightened concerns about student safety. Despite various measures, such as increased security and active shooter drills, the frequency of these tragic events continues to rise. Efforts to address the root causes, including mental health support and stricter gun control laws, are ongoing, but the debate remains polarized. The impact on students, teachers, and communities is profound, with many advocating for more comprehensive and effective solutions to ensure the safety of educational environments.

1.3 Past Actions

Past actions have ranged from legislative attempts to regulate firearms to grassroots movements advocating for stricter gun control. Notable examples include:

- **The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (1993):** Instituted background checks and a waiting period for firearm purchases.
- **The Federal Assault Weapons Ban (1994-2004):** Banned certain semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- **The Everytown for Gun Safety Movement:** An organization advocating for comprehensive gun control and reducing gun violence in schools.

1.4 Bloc Positions

Positions on gun rights and violence vary widely across different political and social groups:

- **Gun Rights Advocates:** Typically argue for minimal restrictions on firearms, emphasizing personal freedoms and self-defense. They often support policies that enhance mental health services and school security as alternative solutions.
- **Gun Control Advocates:** Generally call for stricter regulations on firearm purchases, including background checks, restrictions on assault weapons, and enhanced safety measures in schools.

2. Key Parties Involved

Students: Often the most directly affected by gun violence, students can be both victims and witnesses. Their experiences shape their educational environment and mental well-being. Survivors of such events may suffer from long-term psychological trauma and disruptions to their academic progress.

Educators: Teachers and school staff play a crucial role in responding to and preventing gun violence. They are often on the front lines during incidents and are tasked with implementing safety protocols and supporting affected students.

Parents and Families: Families are integral to the conversation about school safety. Parents seek to ensure the security of their children and may be directly impacted by incidents involving gun violence. Their advocacy and responses to such incidents can influence policy changes.

Law Enforcement: Police and other law enforcement agencies are responsible for responding to incidents of gun violence, investigating crimes, and enforcing laws related to firearm possession and school safety. Their role also includes collaboration with schools to develop emergency response plans.

Policy Makers and Government Officials: Legislators and policymakers at local, state, and federal levels are involved in creating and implementing laws and regulations aimed at reducing gun violence. Their decisions shape the extent and nature of gun control measures and school safety policies.

Mental Health Professionals: Psychologists, counselors, and social workers provide essential support for students and staff affected by gun violence. They play a role in addressing mental health needs and contributing to prevention efforts through counseling and intervention programs.

Advocacy Groups: Organizations dedicated to gun control, school safety, and mental health advocacy work to raise awareness, influence policy, and provide resources and support for affected communities.

2.2 Individual Stakeholders

- **NRA (National Rifle Association):** A powerful lobbying group advocating for gun rights. They argue that increased regulation infringes on constitutional freedoms and advocate for self-defense measures.
- **Everytown for Gun Safety:** A prominent organization pushing for stricter gun control laws and school safety measures.
- **Bipartisan Policy Center:** Engages in research and policy analysis on gun violence and has proposed balanced approaches to address the issue.

2.3 Notable Individuals

- **Wayne LaPierre:** Executive Vice President of the NRA, known for his staunch defense of gun rights and opposition to increased regulation.
- **Shannon Watts:** Founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a group advocating for comprehensive gun control measures.

3. Past Resolutions

3.1 United Nations Resolutions

While the UN has not directly addressed gun violence in schools within a resolution, it has discussed broader issues of violence and security:

- **UN General Assembly Resolution 68/185 (2013):** Focuses on the need for international cooperation to combat transnational crime, which includes aspects of gun trafficking.
- **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000):** Addresses the impact of armed conflict on women and children, implicitly supporting efforts to reduce violence in all forms, including school environments.

3.2 National Legislation

- **The Gun-Free School Zones Act (1990):** Prohibits firearms on school grounds, although it has faced legal challenges and criticisms.
- **The Safe Schools Act (proposed):** Aims to enhance school security and address mental health issues to prevent school shootings.

3.3 Other Initiatives

Mental Health Initiatives: Efforts to improve mental health services within schools have been a focus, including increased funding for counseling services, mental health education, and intervention programs aimed at identifying and supporting at-risk students.

Gun Control Advocacy: Various advocacy groups have lobbied for stricter gun control measures, including bans on certain types of firearms, restrictions on magazine capacities, and enhanced background check systems. Public campaigns and grassroots movements have sought to influence both public opinion and legislative action.

Community-Based Approaches: Some communities have developed local strategies to address gun violence, including partnerships between schools, law enforcement, and community organizations. Programs aimed at fostering dialogue, promoting conflict resolution, and engaging youth in positive activities are examples of these approaches.

4. Focus Questions

- 1. What are the primary factors contributing to the increase in school shootings, and how can they be effectively addressed?**
- 2. How can policymakers balance the constitutional right to bear arms with the need for increased school safety?**
- 3. What role should mental health services play in preventing gun violence in schools?**
- 4. How can international models of gun control and school safety inform U.S. policies?**
- 5. What are the most effective ways to engage communities and stakeholders in developing comprehensive solutions to gun violence in schools?**

5. Conclusion

Understanding gun violence in schools requires a multifaceted approach that involves addressing the root causes, evaluating existing measures, and continuously adapting strategies to enhance the safety of educational environments. By advocating for comprehensive gun control policies, we can work towards creating a safer environment for students and educators alike. It is essential for all delegates to collaborate and take a proactive stance in mitigating this pressing issue.

Topic B: Women's reproductive rights



Thousands of people gathered in New York City and across the country to show their support for abortion rights nearly two weeks after the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*. [Anna Watts for The New York Times](#)

Reproductive rights are a list of rights that a person (in this case a woman/someone who is AFAB) has which as of 2024 are protected by the United States government. In an interview, Ms. Mona Williams of Planned Parenthood Wisconsin defined these rights as, the right to decide if and when to have children and the condition, the right to decide to not have children and options for preventing or ending a pregnancy, and the right to parent with the necessary social support in safe environments and healthy communities. In the past three years women's reproductive rights, specifically abortion, have become a “controversial” topic - which often is argued. The majority of Republicans believe it is immoral, and most Democrats believe it to be a right for a woman, in certain cases. On June 24, 2022, a court case that was

important in the topic of reproductive rights was overturned. The Supreme Court decided that a woman's right to abortion was no longer a constitutional right. As stated by the Planned Parenthood organization,

"Roe v. Wade was named for "Jane Roe" — an alias for a Texas resident named Norma McCorvey — and Henry Wade, who was the district attorney for Dallas County, Texas. In 1969, McCorvey was denied an abortion because her pregnancy didn't pose a medical risk to her life." McCorvey never ended up being able to terminate her pregnancy (have an abortion) as the case kept being moved up to a higher level until it ended up in the Supreme Court. Which is how Roe v. Wade became law (prior to 2022)

History

Prior to the 1820s abortions were generally accessible and performed by midwives and doctors, this changed as Women's Reproductive Rights became more continuous in our country. The Connecticut General Assembly was the first to pass a law abandoning medical abortions in the us. specifically after what was called at the time, the "quickening stage". which is when fetal movement is detected usually around the 5th or 4th month of pregnancy. they had set the punishment for the provider of the drugs needed to do the procedure, a life sentence in prison.

By 1900 Abortions were illegal nationwide, but in the late 60s medical professionals, women, and the political leaders of some states were beginning to question abortion laws, since many women had unsafe, often fatal, illegal abortions. At this time the highest cause of death during pregnancy had in fact, become illegal abortions. So by 1973, 4 states had legalized abortion and 15 other states had liberalized abortion laws. A mid-1960s study showed that private patients comprised about 95% of all elective abortions. But low class clinic patients did not have the power to convince the 3 physician consent needed for their request for an abortion to actually take place. But in 1965, Connecticut made another first in the

woman's reproductive rights scheme of things, when the Supreme Court agreed that a Planned Parenthood affiliate in Connecticut was allowed, by right to distribute contraceptives. The decision of The 1973 Roe v. Wade Court, advanced women's rights, by allowing the termination of a pregnancy during the first two semesters. In 1976, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment forbidding federal funding (groups like Medicaid) for abortions except if giving birth would harm or kill the mother. Two different decisions made by the Supreme Court in 1980, supported the Hyde Amendment. It's important to note that the Hyde Amendment and those court decisions directly discriminated against poor women. Since then more laws and Supreme Court decisions slowly whittled at Roe, until finally On June 24, 2022, Roe V. Wade was overturned. The Supreme Court decided that a woman no longer had a right to abortion. Since then a few things have happened, including planned parenthood being allowed to perform abortions in certain states where it is illegal, including in the state of Wisconsin. But since Roe was overturned, an increase in organizations have started to provide Contraceptive tools like condoms, and certain types of birth control

Your task?

(independents please look at how your senator traditionally feels/felt about it)

All of you want something different from this standpoint. This might make this difficult, but if you figure out how to debate in a way where it works best for the American people.

You will have achieved your goals,

From a Republican stance.

At your last GOP convention, your view has been made clear. Abortions and things like free contraception should be up to your state, (tip: do the research on whether your state has funded something similar in the past, and what your legislation has been from your senator about it.) Figure out what would be best for your state as you go into this.

From a Democratic stance.

Women are no longer able to receive abortions, so contraception education and providing them is crucial for those who are uninformed. unless/until you are able to restore Roe V. Wade, you must make this your main priority.

EXTRA INFO FOR BOTH TOPICS.

References	
Topic A	Topic B
<p>https://www.gale.com/open-access/gun-control</p> <p>https://time.com/5169210/us-gun-control-laws-history-timeline/</p> <p>https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy</p> <p>https://www.audacy.com/wccoradio/news/local/students-walk-out-of-classes-protesting-gun-violence (photo credit)</p>	<p>https://reproductiverights.gov/</p> <p>Rosenfield, A. "Women's reproductive health." American journal of obstetrics and gynecology vol. 169,1 (1993): 128-33. doi:10.1016/0002-9378(93)90146-a</p> <p>Your Path Forward Training by Mona Williams (<i>email Phoenix if you want the slideshow, as it is a file and cannot be inserted into the doc</i>).</p> <p><u>Roe v. Wade Overturned: How the Supreme Court Let Politicians Outlaw Abortion</u> - Planned Parenthood</p> <p><u>After Roe Decision, Thousands Gather at Marches for Abortion Rights</u> - The New York Times</p> <p><u>Abortion debate</u> - Wikipedia (any information used from this source, was heavily fact checked with other sources)</p> <p><u>Reproductive Rights and Racial Justice FAQ: Impacts on Black Women</u> - Legal Defense Fund</p> <p><u>In the Debate on Women's Reproductive Rights, Where are the Women?</u> - Women's Health Research Institute</p> <p>EXTRA NOTES FOR IF YOU DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH: Please! Do lateral research(making sure you know who wrote what you're reading and that it is actually factual and not misinformation!)</p>

**List of the Senators included along with their Senator website
(alphabetically by state.)**

Alabama- [Katie Britt](#)
Alaska- [Lisa Murkowski](#)
Arizona- [Kyrsten Sinema](#)
Arkansas- [Tom Cotton](#)
California- [Laphonza Butler](#)
Colorado- [Michael Bennet](#)
Connecticut- [Richard Blumenthal](#)
Florida- [Rick Scott](#)
Georgia- [Jon Ossoff](#)
Hawaii- [Mazie Hirono](#)
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Vermont- [Bernie Sanders](#)
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Wisconsin - [Ron Johnson](#)
Wyoming- [Cynthia Lummis](#)