Gun Shows and Background Checks

There is a heated debate in the United States of America that revolves around gun shows and background checks. This is part of the gun politics and rights to firearms which has been one of the issues that has been controversial in the politics of the United States of America. In the last few years, the debate has been signified by a stalemate between the government’s duty to maintain law and order and preventing crime on one hand and the individual’s right which is a provision of the constitution of the United States of America. The second amendment protects the right of an individual to possess firearms and in many a polls conducted all across the united states of America, many Americans believe that they have individual rights to own fire arms while there are those who believe that there should be a strict enforcement of the existing law so as to maintain law and order in a country that is on the verge of being wrecked by gun crime (Brian, 2009).

What is a gun show? A gun show is gathering in United States of America where arms and arm accessories are traded. In United States of America, there is a gun show loophole that permits unlicensed people to sell arms without conducting a background check. There are more than 5000 gun shows in United States of America annually and 40 percent are staged by unlicensed dealers who are not required to conduct background checks. According to credible sources, these gun shows are the leading causes of guns used in crime (Koppel, 1999). Though some states have closed these loopholes more than two thirds of America states have not closed the loophole. Should the US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole” that concern background checks. I believe that this legislation is long overdue.

To start with, the US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole” that concern background checks because these shows are sources of trafficked
firearms that are used within United States and outside (Poe, 2001). Since there is a loophole, unscrupulous dealers traffic firearms which they sell without conducting background checks on those they are selling the weapons to. This trafficking denies the American government a lot of revenue.

Secondly, the US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole" that concern background checks because the gun shows avail weapons to people whom the law has prohibited from acquiring arms (Cook, 2000). These people include juveniles and convicted felons and they buy arms from these shows since they are not required to perform background checks. This is very grave because guns are getting into the hands of people who are not responsible enough with guns. This might cause security issues in the country.

The US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole" that concern background checks because Guns purchased during gun shows are also used in various forms of crimes ranging from homicide, hijackings and robberies (Randi, 2009). This means that gun shows have contributed to the growing crime and insecurity rates in United States of America because they avail guns and weapons to criminals who love the shows since background checks are not conducted.

The other reason the US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole" that concern background checks is to ensure that guns are in the hands of responsible people who may not cause a security scare. There have been cases of students shooting their colleagues and teachers in schools in United States of America and you wonder where these students get guns from (Harlow, 2001). They get the guns form these unregulated gun shows that do not perform background checks on the people they are selling arms to. If the congress passes this legislation, then the number of such incidents in schools would go down because juveniles would not have access to weapons.
The US Congress should pass legislation closing the "gun show loophole” that concern background checks to protect the Gun dealers who have been licensed by the government. The loophole enables everyone to sell weapons leading to a growth of very many illicit gun dealers who compete unfavourably with the registered ones.

Mexico, the country that borders United States of America in the south has also been affected by this loophole. Mexico has a very high number of drug gangs who rein terror on police and citizens. Most of the guns that are used by the drug gangs are bought in United States of America during the gun shows. If the US Congress passes legislation closing the "gun show loophole” that concern background checks, it would save Mexico from the wrath of the drug gangs that use the illegally acquired guns from United States of America (Franzia, 2007).

Passing legislation to close the gun show loophole would also help the American government to track the firearms that are used in the country. At the moment, with more than 5000 gun shows taking place in the country annually, it is very hard for the government to tell how many people have firearms in the country (Rummel, 1994). Closing this loophole will enable the states and the federal government to register all the people who have guns in the country because these people will have to give out their details as their backgrounds are being checked. Having a database of the people who have guns would help the government to track all those who have illegal firearms and confiscate them.

Passing legislation to close the gun show loophole would also help the American government to ensure that firearms and other weapons do not get into the hands of dangerous people who might be a threat to national and state security. This legislation would also ensure that all the people who sell guns are registered. This would reduce cases of gun trafficking that denies the government of united states of America revenue and also ensure that fewer firearms are not availed to criminal gangs in both united states of America and Mexico.
References


