

Guest Commentary: Is it all really necessary? STAFF VIEWS ON GUN CONTROL

When the Second Amendment was written in 1791, guns could fire only three bullets per minute. Our founding fathers could not foresee a future where a single man could singlehandedly murder 59 human beings and injure more than 500 in 15 minutes.

Assault rifles should not be protected by the Second Amendment. There is absolutely no reason that the American public should be able to purchase weapons that are designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Assault rifles are not

needed to protect oneself in his or her home, and they are not made to use for sport; they exist entirely to kill.

Assault rifles should be banned in the United States. Our government should set up a buy-back program, and pay individuals when they turn in their assault rifles. If you

do not turn in your firearm and you are found with an assault rifle, you should be given jail time and have the weapon confiscated.

To purchase any gun, one should have to enroll in a class and be trained how to properly use the weapon by an instructor for a period of six months before being allowed to purchase a gun. Every time you purchase a gun you should have to take part in another training specific to the firearm that you are looking to purchase. You should only be able to sell firearms if you are a licensed dealer. Private sales need to stop because

they allow for the sell of firearms without following the same federal requirements that a licensed dealer follows.

If our nation would implement strict gun control the number of guns on the streets would decrease and with that the number of gun deaths would as well."

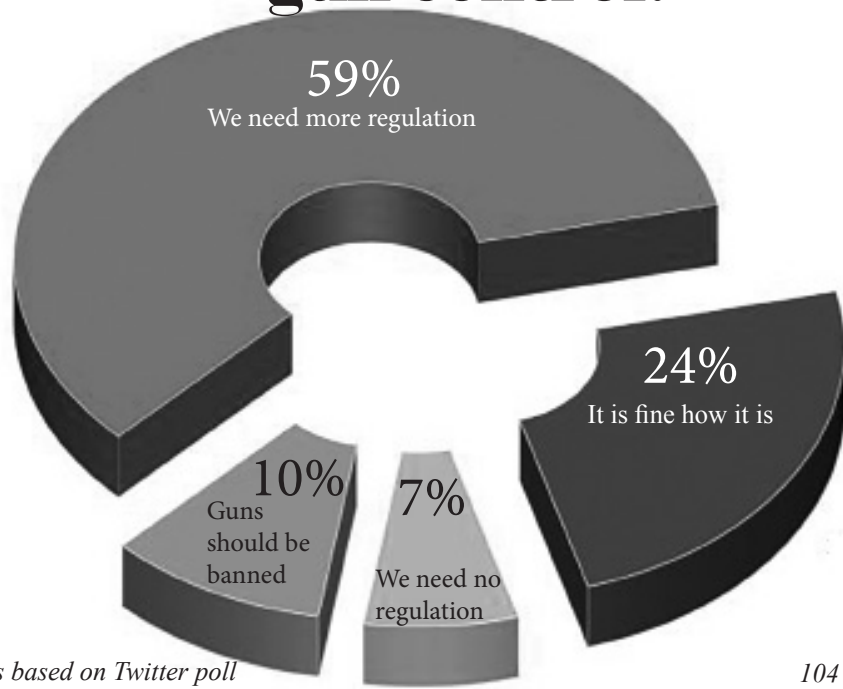


Hazel Dicky, senior

photo by Sam Gatewood

POLL:

Do we need more, or less, gun control?



Results based on Twitter poll

104 voters

Kyle Sanders, Editor-in-Chief:

"While I support the Second Amendment, I do feel there is a need for improved background checks. The reality is guns don't kill people, people kill people. Other non-related gun laws have led to the devaluation of people's lives."

Carlos Molina, Editor-in-Chief:

"I feel like we, as a nation, have to do something about guns because sitting around hasn't done anything but end innocent lives. Something has to change and it starts with our leaders."

Emily Tully, Managing Editor:

"There 100-percent needs to be more regulation when it comes to obtaining firearms, whether they be handguns or automatic weapons. I do not think it should be possible for the average citizen to have the tools readily available to victimize over 500 people in one setting. We should have much stricter gun laws, similar to Australia or Japan."

Sam Gatewood, Photo Editor:

"The government reacts so strongly towards things like illegal immigration or football players taking a knee, yet so little towards something like the killing of millions. The government isn't doing enough."

Tristan Jackson, Managing Editor:

"This isn't a gun problem; it's a 'people going crazy and wanting to kill others' problem. If the goal is to get people to stop killing each other, we need monitor people's mental health. At this point, guns are always going to be around; we just need people to make better decisions with them."

Jalin Ernest, Managing Editor:

"Everyone needs a gun for protection, but there needs to be more obstacles you go through to be able to own a gun, especially 23 of them. Too many lives have been lost over the past years to gun violence, something must change."



All photos by Sam Gatewood

# The War on Healthcare

By Bella Bungcayao

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During the 2016 Presidential Election season, one of President Donald Trump's biggest campaign promises dealt with repealing, and replacing, the Affordable Care Act -- otherwise known as Obamacare.

Universal health care has been an extremely stressful issue for leaders within both parties. Trump, however, has strongly advocated for the replacement of former President Barack Obama's attempt at health care for all, as well supported the GOP's wishes to defund Medicare and Medicaid programs.

During Trump's presidential announcement speech in 2016, he very clearly said, "We have to repeal Obamacare...and it can be replaced with something much better for everybody. Let it be for everybody. But much better and much less expensive for the government. We can do it."

However those changes are not happening quickly, or easily.

The GOP has attempted, and failed, to scrap the Affordable Care Act and implement a new health care system over 70 times since Trump has been elected into his presidency.

**"They can't even pass a simple majority because their plan will hurt the working poor and add around 24 million people to the uninsured ranks."**

**- Mark Felix, teacher**

Most recently, Trump and Republican leaders have proposed a bill that allegedly could reduce taxes by \$450 a year, but only for the top one-percent. This bill would also reportedly cut nearly \$1.5 trillion from the Medicare and Medicaid budget to pay for these tax cuts.

According to Madison Park of CNN, if Obamacare were repealed and replaced, "about 32 million more people would lose their coverage as of 2026."

On the other hand, repealing The Affordable Care Act would decrease the amount of individuals and families, above the Federal Poverty Level, that are getting coverage without paying for it, which is something that Republicans look forward to with a new health care plan.

According to Oliver Wyman from Ways and Means, the chief tax-writing committee of the United States House of Representatives, they estimate that "almost 80-percent of those aged 21 through 29, with incomes greater than 138-percent of the federal poverty line, who are enrolled in nongroup single coverage, can expect to pay more out-of-pocket for health coverage than they pay today."

Health care is an issue that affects everyone, even people here at Jeff High, and could

Months after the Trump Administration announced the removal of the Affordable Care Act, tensions have gone back and forth within the House of Representatives

directly affect current students once they graduate.

Mark Felix, a teacher and coach at Jeff High, knows exactly what this means to Jeffersonville community members. Felix is the teacher advisor for the Jeffersonville Young Democrats Club, and does substantial work for the Democratic community in Clark County.

"As far as I know, Trump has no real health care plan. He told Congress to fix it and they failed twice with their Obamacare repeal and replace proposals," Felix said. "They can't even pass a simple majority because their plan will hurt the working poor and add around 24 million people to the uninsured ranks."

While strong Democrats, like Felix, are more focused on the coverage of the people, others leaning more right are focused on the costs of Obamacare, like Jeff High history teacher Drew Davis, who is known for his conservative moral.

"The cons of Obamacare are that because they are opening up coverage to as many people as possible, they have to find a way to cover the costs of such a plan and as of yet, there is no plan for coming close to covering the costs," said Davis. "It all comes down to coverage versus cost."

Everyone in America is affected by the health care debate that has been raging on this entire election season. Whether it's the universal health care Obama and other Democrats were hoping for, or repealing and replacing, in the end...everyone needs to go to the doctor eventually.



Check out the...

## JHS PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

**What:** Join our student photographers as they showcase their work!

**When:** Nov. 27 until Dec. 1, all periods

**Where:** Media Center at JHS, then GCCS Administration Building

