



US SENATE

Welcome senators,

My name is Luna Glück Mora, and I am delighted to be your Director in the United States Senate. I am 15 years old and currently a junior in high school at the International American School of Cancun. Outside of Model United Nations, I enjoy going to the beach, practicing aerial silks, and spending time with my loved ones. While I am still exploring my academic interests, I hope to pursue a future career in a mathematics-related field.

This conference marks my third MUN experience, and my first time participating as a director. I have previously served as a delegate. The first time I participated was in CancunMun 2024 in UNODC, and following in CancunMun 2025 in WHO, where I developed skills in debate, collaboration, and critical thinking. I am especially excited to take part in the U.S Senate, which is a committee where we will discuss topics regarding the United States of America.

As your director I expect my senators to be respectful and well-mannered, actively be participating through the conference and as well as to come prepared and ready. Please remember to research thoroughly beyond the background guide, as it should not be your only source of information. I am confident that I will do my best as director of the U.S. Senate. If you have any doubts, please do not hesitate to contact me at luna.gluck@ciac.edu.mx. Good luck with your preparation, and I look forward to seeing you soon, Senators!

Luna Glück Mora, Director
United States Senate

Welcome senators,

My name is Analucía González Garza, and I am delighted to be your moderator in the United States Senate. I am 15 years old and currently a sophomore in high school at the International American School of Cancun. Outside of Model United Nations, I enjoy practicing volleyball, cooking, and I love traveling. While I am still exploring my academic interests, I hope to pursue a future career in a science-related field.

This conference marks my second MUN experience, and my first time participating as a moderator. I have previously served as a page. The first time I participated was in CancunMun 2025 in the Senado de México, where I developed skills in communication and collaboration. I am eager to participate in the U.S. Senate committee, where we will engage in thoughtful discussion and analysis of key issues affecting the United States.

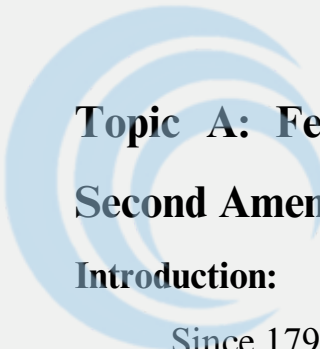
As your moderator, I'm looking for everyone to show good conduct, stay involved throughout the conference, and arrive ready to take part. Come in prepared to speak, collaborate, and support productive discussion within the committee. Make sure you've done solid research using more than just the background guide, since it's only meant to give you a basic overview and shouldn't be your only source. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at analucia.gonzalez@ciac.edu.mx. Good luck with your preparation, and I'm glad I'll be meeting you all soon!

Analucía González Garza, Moderator
United States Senate



COMMITTEE MISSION

The United States Senate works as the upper chamber of Congress; it is composed of 100 senators, with two representatives from each state. The Senate is mainly responsible for drafting and passing legislation, ratifying treaties, and confirming presidential appointments. Doing this works through committees, hearings, and legislative proposals, the senators address the main issues affecting the United States. The Senate has a role in shaping the United States future through its work, and it has an impact on the people who live in the United States, by its crucial role in shaping and helping grow the United States.



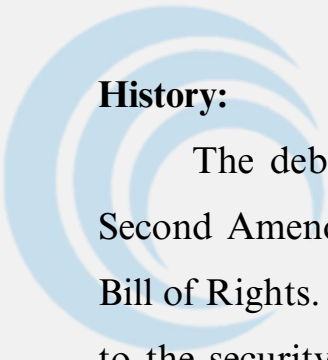
Topic A: Federal Firearm Regulation and the Interpretation of the Second Amendment

Introduction:

Since 1791, federal firearm regulation in the United States has remained one of the most controversial issues in United States politics. The Second Amendment guarantees the right of citizens to be able to keep and bear arms, but the interpretation of this right has been used in different ways over time. While some Americans believe that being able to own a firearm is a basic right, some argue that we need to establish stronger federal regulations to reduce violence and ensure the safety of citizens.

Gun violence is continuing to affect communities, but mostly in urban areas where firearm crimes are more common. Incidents like mass shootings in schools, offices, and public spaces have increased the worry about being able to access firearms and questioned the effectiveness of the current laws. At the same time, lots of rural communities emphasize the need for gun ownership as part of their cultural practices, such as hunting and personal defense. These differences between communities have contributed to the political divisions regarding the topic of how firearms policies should be regulated and implemented at the federal level.

Efforts by Congress to address firearm regulation have been minor due to a divide between opposing political parties and strong organizations putting pressure, such as the National Rifle Association. While some laws have expanded background checks and funded mental health initiatives, people argue that these actions fail to completely address the issue and its causes of gun violence or regulate certain types of firearms. As a result, the debate over federal firearm regulation centers on how Congress can balance constitutional rights protected by the Second Amendment with the government's responsibility to promote public safety in modern United States society.



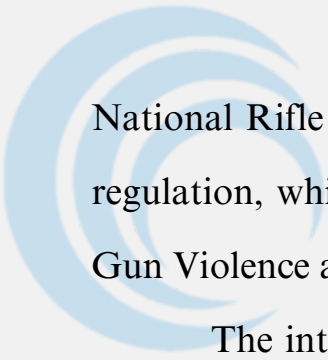
History:

The debate over firearm regulation in the United States began with the Second Amendment to the Constitution in 1791 as a part of the United States Bill of Rights. The Amendment states, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed” When the amendment was created, it was associated with the end of well-regulated militias to defend the young nation. Firearms were considered crucial for defense.

At the start of the 20th century, rising crime and the spread of organized crime during Prohibition, a crime where there was a ban on alcoholic beverages, in the United States, led the federal government to consider sturdier regulations. Criminal organizations used powerful firearms, increasing the worry for public safety. To solve this issue, Congress passed the National Firearms Act of 1934, which imposed a tax on the making and the transfer of firearms. This act marked a turning point by establishing the federal government's authority to regulate firearms.

Firearm regulation increased more in the 1960s because of political assassinations and rising public concerns. The assassinations of John F Kennedy, Robert F Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr. led Congress to pass the Gun Control Act of 1968. The law strengthens oversight of firearm sales by requiring licensing for gun dealers and restricting the purchase of firearms by some groups, like criminals and people with severe mental illnesses. This law also limited the importation of some firearms that were considered too dangerous.

An important response to gun violence was the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993. Which requires that background checks be made before a gun is bought from a licensed dealer, manufacturer, or importer. This act established the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which is what the FBI uses today. The people looked at this act as a step for the prevention of dangerous people obtaining guns, while some argued that it placed unnecessary restrictions. In the decades that followed, organizations like the



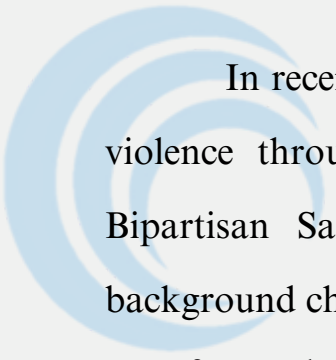
National Rifle Association grew into an influential group strictly opposing gun regulation, while at the same time, groups like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence also grew to fight for stronger gun regulations.

The interpretation of the Second Amendment was strengthened through Supreme Court decisions. In the case *District of Columbia v. Heller* in 2008, the Supreme Court stated that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, such as self-defense. Despite these legal rulings, the debate over firearm regulation is continuing to increase because of incidents of gun violence and mass shootings. Many proposals have been shown in Congress to expand background checks, regulate, and strengthen safety measures. However, many of the proposals have failed, faced political opposition, and have struggled to pass through Congress.

Overall, efforts to regulate firearms in the United States have yielded indecisive results. Background check systems and licensing requirements have improved to oversee firearm sales. However, opposing political parties and interpretations of rights have limited the making of more federal regulations. As gun violence continues to be a public concern, the development of firearm regulation remains an ongoing debate.

Current Situation:

Today, firearm regulation is still one of the most debated political and social issues in the United States. While the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms, some politicians continue to debate how the right is supposed to be interpreted and used in the communities. Rising concerns about gun violence and mass shootings have increased the pressure on lawmakers to consider new federal policies.



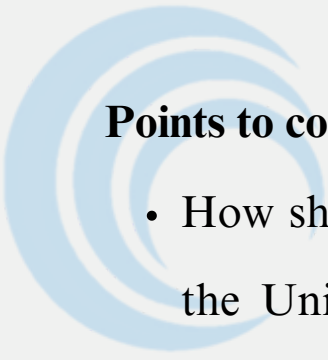
In recent years, we have seen several efforts by Congress to address gun violence through legislation. One of the most significant measures is the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, passed in 2022. This law expanded background checks for firearms buyers. Some people say that the legislation is a step forward for reducing gun violence. However, some argue that the law either does not go far enough in regulating or is an unnecessary restriction.

As well, debates over firearm regulation have increasingly taken place in the judicial system. Recent decisions by the Supreme Court continue to shape firearm laws. In the case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* in 2022, the court ruled that individuals have a constitutional right to carry firearms in public for self-defense under certain conditions.

Advocacy organizations also continue to play a major role in shaping the national government's gun policy. Groups such as the National Rifle Association advocate for the protection of gun ownership rights and oppose many federal firearm regulations. Meanwhile, organizations like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence support stronger gun measures, including universal background checks and restrictions on firearms.

As the debate continues, lawmakers must consider a wide range of factors, including constitutional protections, public safety concerns, and political divisions. The challenge facing the United States Senate is to determine whether new federal legislation can effectively address gun violence while maintaining the constitutional rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment.





Points to consider:

- How should Congress interpret the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution in the context of modern firearm technology and rising gun violence?
- To what extent should the federal government regulate firearms versus leaving regulation to individual states?
- What policies could effectively reduce gun violence while still protecting constitutional rights?
- How can Congress address the role of mental health, illegal firearm trafficking, and social factors in gun violence?
- Should certain types of firearms or high-capacity magazines face federal restrictions?

Useful links:

https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/amdt2-1/ALDE_00000408/

<https://time.com/5169210/us-gun-control-laws-history-timeline/>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/idea-of-the-senate.htm>

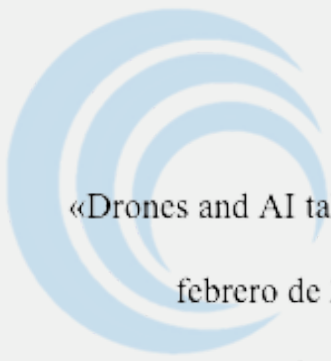
<https://www.atf.gov/firearms>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Second-Amendment>

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF11038>

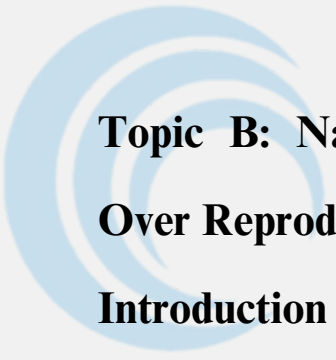
Senators Box

Grassley, Chuck (R-IA)	Schumer, Charles E. (D-NY)
Thune, John (R-SD)	Booker, Cory A. (D-NJ)
Capito, Shelley Moore (R-WV)	Ossoff, Jon (D-GA)
Barrasso, John (R-WY)	Schatz, Brian (D-HI)
Lankford, James (R-OK)	Durbin, Richard J. (D-IL)
Cotton, Tom (R-AR)	Warren, Elizabeth (D-MA)
Scott, Tim (R-SC)	Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI)
Cruz, Ted (R-TX)	Murphy, Christopher (D-CT)
Tillis, Thom (R-NC)	Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN)
Ashley Moody (R-FL)	Warner, Mark R. (D-VA)
McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)	Cortez Masto, Catherine (D-NV)
Paul, Rand (R-KY)	Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Graham, Lindsey (R-SC)	John Fetterman (D-PA)
Hawley, Josh (R-MO)	Padilla, Alex (D-CA)
Angus King (I-ME)	Sanders, Bernard (I-VT)



Works Cited

- «Drones and AI take center stage in Navy-led Middle East exercises. *Stars And Stripes*, 21 de febrero de 2025,
www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-02-21/international-maritime-exercise-bahrain-16796748.html.
- Elkind, Sergey. «3D-Printed Warfare: A New Phase in Jihadist “Do-It-Yourself” Innovation Targeting the West?» *GNET*, 21 de enero de 2026,
gnet-research.org/2026/01/21/3d-printed-warfare-a-new-phase-in-jihadist-do-it-yourself-innovation-targeting-the-west.
- European Times. «China 's technology aids terrorism in Kashmir». *European Times*, 10 de agosto de 2025, europeantimes.org/chinas-technology-aids-terrorism-in-kashmir.
- Karlsrud, John. «Towards UN counter-terrorism operations?» *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 38, n.º 6, enero de 2017, pp. 1215-31. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2016.1268907>.
- Levi, Michael, y David S. Wall. «Technologies, Security, and Privacy in the Post-9/11 European Information Society». *Journal Of Law And Society*, vol. 31, n.º 2, mayo de 2004, pp. 194-220. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6478.2004.00287.x>.
- Rapid. «Rapid7: Key Emerging Cybersecurity Threats and Challenges for 2025 and Beyond». *Rapid7*, 27 de octubre de 2025,
www.rapid7.com/blog/post/it-key-emerging-cybersecurity-threats-challenges-ai-ransomware-quantum.
- Saul, Ben. «ATTEMPTS TO DEFINE ‘TERRORISM’ IN INTERNATIONAL LAW». *Netherlands International Law Review*, vol. 52, n.º 1, abril de 2005, pp. 57-83.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/s0165070x05000574>.
- Terrorists' Use of Emerging Technologies Poses Evolving Threat to International Peace, Stability, Acting UN Counter-Terrorism Chief Warns Security Council | UN Meetings*



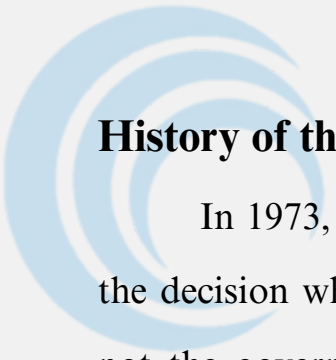
Topic B: National Abortion Policy and Congressional Authority Over Reproductive Rights

Introduction

The main issue is the absence of a consistent national abortion policy, leading to unequal access to reproductive healthcare across states. Congress plays a role through legislation and federal funding, making its involvement highly controversial. Supporters argue that reproductive rights should be protected at the federal level, while opponents believe abortion policy should remain under state control. The debate centers on whether Congress should establish a national standard or defer authority to the states.

In the United States of America, the National Abortion Policy is banned in 13 states, hostile in 12, not protected in 5, protected in 15, and 11 have expanded access. The southern middle states are the states that have made the National Abortion Policy illegal in comparison to other states.

Abortion access in the United States is very different depending on which state someone lives in. In some states, strict bans make it hard or even impossible for people to get care nearby, forcing them to travel long distances. This can be expensive and stressful. Federal rules like the Hyde Amendment limit access for people who rely on government healthcare programs. Because of these differences, millions of people face unequal access to reproductive healthcare, and the issue continues to be a major topic of debate both within the country and around the world. The Senate must determine whether Congress has the constitutional authority to enact a national abortion policy or whether regulation of reproductive rights should remain under state control.



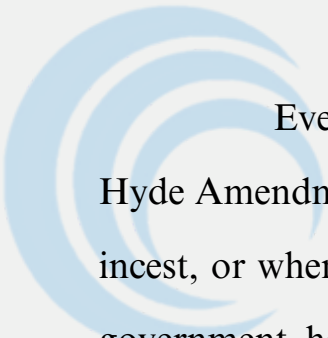
History of the Topic

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* recognized that the decision whether to continue or end a pregnancy belongs to the individual, not the government. *Roe* held that the specific guarantee of "liberty" in the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. The Constitution, which protects individual privacy, includes the right to abortion before fetal viability.

After *Roe*, and up until it decided to overturn *Roe* in 2022, the Supreme Court repeatedly reaffirmed that the Constitution protects abortion as an essential liberty, which is tied to other liberty rights to make personal decisions about family, relationships, and bodily autonomy.

The debate over abortion laws in the United States has been going on for more than a hundred years. Many groups have been involved, including courts, Congress, state governments, activists, and healthcare organizations. Abortion policy has changed many times, often depending on court decisions and political debates, making it one of the most controversial issues in the country.

In the 1800s, many states banned abortion except when the woman's life was in danger. By the early 1900s, almost every state had similar laws, supported by some doctors and reformers who wanted to limit abortion. Over time, people began questioning whether these laws violated personal freedom and women's rights. A major turning point happened in 1973 with the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*. The Court ruled that the Constitution protects a woman's right to choose an abortion before the fetus can survive outside the womb, based on the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects liberty and privacy. This decision made abortion legal nationwide, though states could still regulate abortion later in pregnancy to protect maternal health or potential life.



Even after Roe, the debate continued. In 1976, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment, limiting federal funding for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life was at risk. This affected people who relied on government healthcare programs like Medicaid. In 1992, the Supreme Court decided *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which reaffirmed the right to abortion but allowed states to impose restrictions as long as they did not create an “undue burden.” After this decision, many states introduced waiting periods, parental consent laws, and stricter clinic regulations.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and advocacy groups have also played a big role. Some support abortion rights as part of healthcare and gender equality, while others work to limit abortion and protect unborn life. These groups influence public opinion, laws, and court cases. International organizations, such as the United Nations, have also emphasized reproductive healthcare as important for maternal health and gender equality. While the UN cannot make U.S. law, its guidance helps shape global discussions.

In 2022, the Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and deciding the Constitution does not guarantee a right to abortion. This returned authority to individual states. After the ruling, some states passed strict bans, while others protected abortion access.

Over time, laws and court decisions have tried to address abortion, but none have fully solved the issue. Some measures, like *Roe v. Wade*, temporarily created protections, while others limited access through funding rules or state restrictions. Today, abortion access depends on the state, showing that the debate over reproductive rights in the United States is far from over.

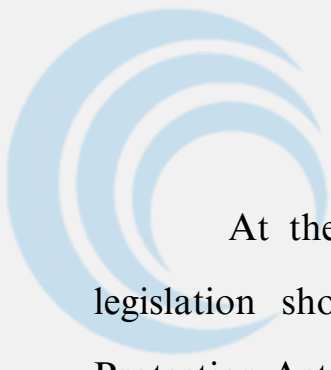


Current Situation

Since the 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, abortion policy in the United States has changed dramatically. The Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ruling that the Constitution does not guarantee a federal right to abortion. This decision returned the power to regulate abortion to individual states, creating a patchwork of laws across the country. Some states have strict bans or heavy restrictions, while others have passed laws that protect or expand abortion access.

In states with strict laws, clinics have closed or reduced services, and many individuals now have to travel long distances to reach a clinic that can provide care. This often means extra costs for transportation, lodging, and childcare, which can make abortion more difficult or even impossible for people with limited resources. In addition, some states have introduced strict rules about medication abortion and telehealth services, adding further barriers for patients.

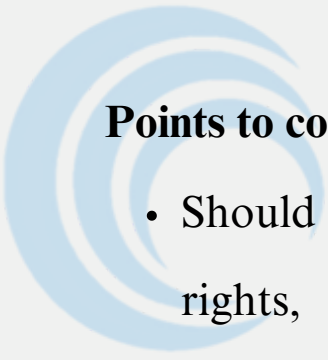
On the other hand, states that protect abortion rights have taken active steps to make access easier. Some have expanded Medicaid coverage for abortion, ensured that telehealth services for medication abortion remain available, and passed laws protecting people who travel from other states for care. These actions aim to reduce barriers and make reproductive healthcare more accessible and safe.



At the federal level, Congress continues to debate whether national legislation should protect abortion rights. Bills like the Women's Health Protection Act have been introduced to guarantee access across the country and limit state restrictions. However, political divisions have so far prevented these bills from becoming law, leaving abortion access dependent on state policies.

Legal challenges are ongoing, with lawsuits targeting state bans, restrictions on medication abortion, and rules about telehealth. Courts continue to play a key role in shaping abortion policy, and future decisions may expand or limit access in different areas.

The debate over abortion also remains active in public life. Advocacy groups, healthcare organizations, and political leaders continue to push for changes, both for expanding access and for stricter restrictions. This shows that abortion policy is still one of the most contested and rapidly evolving issues in the United States.



Points to consider:

- Should Congress pass a national law protecting abortion rights, or should states continue to regulate abortion independently?
- How do differences in state laws affect access to abortion services for people in different regions, especially low-income or rural populations?
- Does Congress have the constitutional authority to create a national abortion policy, or is it primarily a state responsibility?
- How does access to abortion relate to public health, maternal health, and international human rights standards?

Useful links:

<https://reproductiverights.org/resources/roe-v-wade/>

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10787>

<https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>

<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/litigation-involving-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-the-federal-courts/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10126955/>

<https://www.cato.org/commentary/no-constitutional-authority-national-abortion-law>



Works Cited

- Center for Reproductive Rights. "Abortion Laws by State." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/. Accessed 3 Mar. 2026.
- Hickey, Kevin J, and Whitney K Novak. "Congressional Authority to Regulate Abortion." *Congress.gov*, 7 Aug. 2022, www.congress.gov/crs-product/LSB10787. Accessed 3 Mar. 2026.
- History.com Editors. "Roe v. Wade." *History*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Mar. 2018, www.history.com/topics/womens-history/roe-v-wade. Accessed 8 Mar. 2026.
- kffmichaelp. "Litigation Involving Reproductive Health and Rights in the Federal Courts | KFF." *KFF*, www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/litigation-involving-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-the-federal-courts/. Accessed 3 Mar. 2026.
- LANTZ, PAULA M., et al. "Abortion Policy in the United States: The New Legal Landscape and Its Threats to Health and Socioeconomic Well-Being." *The Milbank Quarterly*, vol. 101, no. S1, 24 Mar. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.12614>.
- Levy, Robert A. "No Constitutional Authority for a National Abortion Law." *Cato.org*, 2023, www.cato.org/commentary/no-constitutional-authority-national-abortion-law. Accessed 3 Mar. 2026.
- "Roe v. Wade." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 7 Dec. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Roe-v-Wade. Accessed 8 Mar. 2026.
- "Roe v. Wade - Center for Reproductive Rights." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, reproductiverights.org/resources/roe-v-wade/. Accessed 3 Mar. 2026.

The main purpose of the United States Senate is to debate, amend, and pass federal legislation while representing the interests of the states.

