Neg V2

We negate: Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfers of ownership.

**Contention 1: Racism**

Non-violent drug crimes are disproportionately charged against African Americans as [Jonathan Rothwell](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/social-mobility-memos/2014/09/30/how-the-war-on-drugs-damages-black-social-mobility/) of Brookings finds in 2017 that blacks are far more likely than whites to be arrested and criminalized for non-violent sale or possession of drugs even though whites are more likely than blacks to sell drugs. [Christopher Moraff](https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-gun-issue-even-the-nra-wont-touch) confirms in 2016 that blacks are imprisoned 10 times more frequently than whites for the exact same crime. Because even drug offenders with a full pardon are felons, UBCs will disproportionately restrict African Americans of their rights simply because of their race. Importantly, these drug offenders are harmless as [Lauren Brooke](http://time.com/4596081/incarceration-report/) of Time finds in 2016 that currently, 39% of the prison population are incarcerated for nonviolent crimes and pose no threat to public safety.

This is devastating, as [The CSM](https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2017/0711/Black-gun-owners-ask-Does-the-Second-Amendment-apply-to-us) posits in 2017 that a lower Second Amendment status is reminiscent of a devalued citizenship for African Americans that persists to the present day.

Fortunately, [The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/the-secret-history-of-guns/308608/) notes in 2011 that keeping guns available empowers minority

groups to stand up to oppressors because you’re a lot more likely to fight for your rights if you can defend yourself.

[The RTM Institute](http://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_RTM_200_0735--empowerment-the-history-of-a-key-concept.htm) impacts in 2009 that empowering oppressed groups helps them to overcome internalized oppression, a state in which the victims of oppression feel inferior.

Overcoming these beliefs is essential because Wesley Bryant of Harvard University finds in 2011 that internalized racism lays the psychological pretext for juvenile delinquency and is the largest cause of violence amongst African American youth. The PRO fails to attack root of the problem which is racism that incentivizes crime in the first place.

**Contention 2: Background Checks will give Democrats the blues**

With 2018 midterm elections around the corner, Republicans are freaking out. [The National Review](http://www.nationalreview.com/article/449602/republican-governing-struggles-lack-clear-agenda-blame) reports that even with a majority, Republicans haven’t been able to get anything done. [William Ricci of the OTA furthers](http://ota.org/media/446189/re-revfnl-lower-resolution-ota-summer17-newsletter-final-.pdf) last month that the the reason for this is their lack of a larger majority in the senate.

Unfortunately, passing universal background checks would give the GOP free reign in 2018 for 2 reasons.

First, Democrats lose.

[The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/12/why-america-cant-pass-gun-control/266417/) explains in 2012 that Democrats are reluctant to pass background checks now because of a voter enthusiasm gap. In other words, anti-gun voters care about the issue a little bit, but the pro-gun camp is made up of practically single issue voters. That means if just 5% of people opposed UBCS, they’d vote against a candidate for that reason alone, in the 11 tossup Democrat Senate seats, even that 5% of the vote can make all the difference, especially when 5 are in conservative states.

Indeed, Democrats have lost multiple elections before because of their anti-gun stances.

[The LA Times](http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-gun-politics-20151210-story.html) expounds in 2015 that the passage of an assault weapons ban caused Democrats lose control of the senate in 1994.

And history is repeating. [CNN](http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/09/11/pro-gun-control-democrats-ousted-in-colorado-recall/) writes in 2013 even background check laws that didn’t pass were met by fierce opposition from the NRA and Democrats lost multiple seats as a result of trying to pass.

[Knighton](https://bearingarms.com/tom-k/2017/10/19/schumer-warns-fellow-democrats-off-gun-control/) contextualizes last month that while Republicans currently don’t have enough of a majority to get certain pieces of legislation passed and block filibusters, an anti-gun push now would result in even more Republican control, eliminating the Democrats for years.

Second, moderates pack their bags.

[Jonathan Allen from Bloomberg](http://mashable.com/2015/12/03/gun-control-politics-limits/#GK852.7j75qR) explains in 2015 that when Republicans back gun control measures, which would be necessary for them to pass, they forfeit their backing from the the pro-gun lobby and passionate voters, guaranteeing them a competitive, more right-wing primary opponent. [Vox](https://www.vox.com/polyarchy/2016/9/14/12905660/primary-elections-scare-republicans) furthers in 2016 that moderates are already losing to the radical right, and the passage of UBCs would only worsen the trend.

This free reign holds 2 implications

First, [The LA Times](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-trumpcare-mental-health-20170629-story.html) warns in 2017 that as cases of suicide and depression skyrocket, Republicans are planning to gut spending on mental health programs. They further that untreated mental health issues are the root causes of suicide.

Second, Andrew Prokop of [Vox News](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/26/16361250/obamacare-repeal-deadline-september-30) writes this year that the GOP will continue to try and repeal Obamacare in the future. However, recently they fell short by just 1 vote, meaning that if UBCs cause 1 Democratic seat to flip red, then the GOP can repeal Obamacare.

Repealing Obamacare leads to devastating consequences. The [EPI](http://www.epi.org/aca-obamacare-repeal-impact/) writes that repealing the ACA leads to 1.2 million jobs lost and almost 30 million people losing insurance. Furthermore, David Himmelstein of the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/23/repealing-the-affordable-care-act-will-kill-more-than-43000-people-annually/?utm_term=.ca26bcafd3f5) writes this year that repealing Obamacare would cause almost 50,000 deaths each year which is 4 times the amount of homicides by guns.