

UNCLE HANK SAYS:

“You’re trying to take my guns away.”

YOUR RESPONSE: No one wants to take your guns away. There are no legislative proposals in Harrisburg or Washington, D.C. to do that, and it wouldn’t even be possible under the Second Amendment. Uncle Hank, even you agree that there are some people who shouldn’t have guns, right? The real goal is to keep guns out of the hands of those folks—felons, the seriously mentally ill, and people who are subject to protection from abuse orders.

COUSIN KELLY SAYS:

“Gun restrictions violate my 2nd amendment rights.”

YOUR RESPONSE: Actually, the United States Supreme Court has held that the Second Amendment is like our other constitutional rights and subject to reasonable regulations. These include background checks, limits on who can own a gun, and where guns can be carried. In fact, in his opinion upholding an individual right to own a handgun for self-protection, Justice Scalia said, “The right secured by the second amendment is not unlimited.”



AUNT SUSIE SAYS:

“Background checks don’t work.”

YOUR RESPONSE: Every day, people who are not allowed to buy guns try to do so and are blocked by the background check system. In fact, since 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has blocked almost 2 million sales to felons, the seriously mentally ill, drug abusers, and others who are prohibited by federal law from purchasing firearms. The PA Background Check System (PICS) has also blocked sales to more than 100,000 prohibited purchasers. So the background check system works, and what we need to do is make sure there aren’t other legal avenues—like internet sales and private sellers—where people can buy guns without background checks.



GRANDPA JOE SAYS:

“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.”

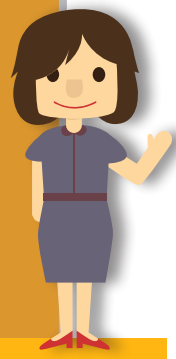
YOUR RESPONSE: This just isn’t true. In fact, adding guns to the mix makes many situations more dangerous and more deadly. In domestic violence cases, homicide is 5 times more likely if there is a gun in the home. For every 1 time a gun in the home is used in self-defense, there are 7 criminal assaults or homicides, 4 accidental shootings and 11 attempted or completed suicides.



AUNT SHARISSE SAYS:

“People don’t support regulations on guns.”

YOUR RESPONSE: Actually, over 90% of Americans support background checks for gun purchases, including 74% of NRA members. Background checks are one of the most popular legislative proposals out there. The real issue is that people think we already have laws and regulations in place that don’t exist—like background checks on every gun sale, or waiting periods and mandatory training before purchases can go through.



2ND COUSIN MARK SAYS:

“Guns don’t kill people—people kill people.”

YOUR RESPONSE: Of course, we have to deal with individual responsibility and a culture of heightened aggression and violence. But the facts are that adding guns to the mix increases the risk of suicide, increases the risk of death by gun in the home, and makes already dangerous situations more lethal. Guns are effective and efficient in achieving their purpose—so guns do kill.



NEPHEW NATHAN SAYS:

“I’m a Conservative, we don’t believe in gun control.”

YOUR RESPONSE: This isn’t about liberals and conservatives, or labels at all. Historically both parties have supported reasonable regulations on firearms to keep our communities safer. At a speech at George Washington University on March 29, 1991, former President Ronald Regan said: “With the right to bear arms comes a great responsibility to use caution and common sense on handgun purchases.” This is about common sense, about safety, and about our right to live free from fear and from gun violence.



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