

Promote a community that is safe for all.

In Goshen, there should never be a point where you feel like you are not safe when walking in a grocery store going to work going to school and this safety is being violated by gun violence. There have been times where when I walk into a store and am worried that a man who has a gun might just pull it and start shooting because of all the news stories that I have heard in the past about things like that happening. I feel like we should run a petition that has the community safer from gun violence.

I have my own personal story that I have felt threatened by a firearm and all I was doing was talking which is not need of grasping or anything of that manner. When I get home from school there is a problem with one of my console controllers so I needed to replace it I decided to go to a Goshen small business instead of going to GameStop. I went to the store and was looking through all of the controllers and decided on one. I purchased the controller and took it home to my house with the intent that if it was dysfunctional that I could take it back and return it if needed. During the purchase of the controller the cashier never mentioned that they had no returns, I was unaware of this and the controller ended up being dysfunctional. I went back to the store to return my controller and he then told me that there were no refunds. My mom then recalled that there was no mention of this beforehand. My mom and the cashier then began to get into an argument and then I realize that the man behind the counter is armed with a handgun, I then turn to my mom and try to convince her to leave because I'd seen what people can get away with by claiming self-defense so I convince her to leave the store and it would be fine that I didn't get the controller dealt with. She said to hold on and to let her talk, I said we should leave and he was grasping cause it was getting very heated. I convinced her and told her that it was ok and we went out to the car and luckily there was no other conflict.

This is a very delicate topic judging by how the second amendment has people carry arms but I think that it should be the business decision at least. It should not be used unless it is a physical situation where you genuinely feel threatened to the point where you feel it is needed to defend yourself. I disagree with the open-carry laws to some extent, for instance, I don't think that you should be able to bring them into some establishments such as a bank or school.

I hope in the future that not only as a community but as a whole, we will be free from gun violence entirely.

