

Abstract

This bachelor thesis lay stress on finding out the reason why bills concerning gun control from the beginning of the year 2013 at 113th Congress did not pass. The first part focuses on President Barack Obama as an initiator of the discussion on the theme of gun control on the federal level specifically at the 113. Congress. The thesis is based on supposition that direct influence of the President in legislative issues is weak or none at all but from his presidential post he can affect which issues are being on this level accented. That is why the first part of the thesis sums up the cultural-historical context of gun control in USA. It means to help the reader to acquire a basic framework for better understanding given issues and to determine the level of importance of gun control debate in American culture. The second chapter analyse Obama's stance on gun control and his reaction on attacks that took place during his presidency and tries to determine how was the attack in Sandy Hook so different from the others that it led to factual attempts for changes in gun control laws on federal level. The last third and also the most extensive part deals with the 113th Congress and gun control bills. It analyses each bill and their voting processes and tries to examine main participators and their real motives. It breaks down the attempts and define why they were at the 113th Congress unsuccessful.

The result of this analyses is a revelation that the effort to pull through legislative changes in gun control was from the very begging accompanied with worries that those changes will not find enough support in the House of Representatives or Senate House. Concerning this it was necessary to adopt such a strategy that would find out the real potential of these proposals without much time loss. A few bills were attached to a different gun control bill which was part of a bigger bundle of legislative changes. The voting took place in Senate which had the democratic majority and therefore the probability of passing was higher than in the House of Representatives. Given that these attachments were not able to be add to the gun control bill it was obvious that the chances of passing those bills are very low if any and that is why these attempts for legislative changes in gun control were dropped.