

## Honors Senior Spotlight



### **Sofia Salazar '22**

**Hometown:** Dacula, Georgia

**Major:** Criminal Justice, National Security

**Minor:** Russian Language & Area Studies

**Thesis Title:** Effectiveness of Red Flag Laws in Reducing Mass Shootings Across the United States

**Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Giovanni Circo

### **What is your thesis about?**

Red flag laws, also known as Extreme Risk Protective Orders, were designed to allow law enforcement to temporarily confiscate the firearms of a person reported to be a danger to themselves or others. However, how effective, if at all, are these laws in preventing mass shootings? This thesis seeks to compare the before and after effect on mass shootings in each state that has enacted a red flag law from the year the law was passed.

### **What motivated and/or inspired you to select this as your research topic?**

The surge in school shootings and mass shootings in recent years such as the Parkland school shooting which led to the #NeverAgain movement, made the fear of mass shootings so tangible that I felt the need to assess the effectiveness of changes in legislation such as red flag laws. If red flag laws are to have no effect on mass shootings, as a nation we need a change that will prove effective in keeping our communities safe, rather than wasting time on inefficient legislation.

### **Do you have any advice for future Honors students thinking about writing an Honors Thesis?**

Find a topic you are truly passionate and curious about, that you feel will actually matter. Doing so will make the work so much easier because you'll be invested in every aspect of the research.

### **After graduating, what are your plans?**

I plan to further my education by going to grad school in Washington D.C. for my Master's degree.