

*"The answer to gun violence is not more guns in churches and schools."*

– Paula Herbert, President, Michigan Education Association



Sadly, Valentine's Day 2018 will be remembered as when 17 students and teachers were gunned down by a mentally ill 19 year old youth at Parkland, Florida High School using an AR-15. These same semi-automatic weapons were used to kill 59 people in a Las Vegas music fest; 26 people at a Baptist church in Texas; 49 people at a Florida nightclub; and 26 mostly children at the Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut.

**What can we do to resist this deadly combination of assault weapons and mentally disturbed individuals here in Michigan?**

While there are many answers to that question. This email highlights four things we CAN do, some drawn from the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, the women's march movement, students and teachers. Let's take inspiration from the courageous leadership of students at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

**TAKE ACTION!**

**1. CALL YOUR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.** Request that your school board join with other districts in passing written resolutions opposing SB 584 and 586 to keep their schools GUN FREE ZONES. The Michigan Education Association is on record as opposing these bills that would allow concealed weapons to be brought into schools, places of worship, and bars, sports arenas and other places considered by law to be gun free zones. The Michigan Senate adopted these bills last fall.

**2. CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE.** Urge him or her to vote NO on SB 584 and 586. See talking points at the end of this email from previous MUUSJN action alert on this legislation

Click [HERE](#) to find a phone/email for your State Rep.



**3. SUPPORT THE WOMAN'S MARCH YOUTH EMPOWER MOVEMENT FOR A SCHOOL WALKOUT ON MARCH 14TH.** A nation-wide walk out of students and teachers is being scheduled 10 a.m. that day. Allies are invited to participate. Click [HERE](#) to learn about a walkout near you:

**4. ENCOURAGE FIVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY TO TAKE THESE ACTIONS.**

### TALKING POINTS ON SB 584 and 586

- The gun expansion bill package would allow people with concealed weapons permits to bring their weapons into schools, places of worship, day care centers, dormitories, bars, sports arena and other safe zones, something not now permitted by current law. These are places that we all want to be safe places to worship, to learn and to enjoy ourselves.
- Allowing more guns into safe places can create more possibilities for accidental shootings.
- Additional training described in the bill, according Donald Wotruba, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of School Boards, "doesn't come close to the training an individual would need for high intensity situations".

For more information, contact Linda Brundage, Executive Director, Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, at 517-927-8392. MUUSJN is a member of this Coalition.

<http://michigancoalitiontopreventgunviolence.org>

Together we can do great things,

Randy Block, MSW, Director  
Michigan UU Social Justice Network

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