



JESUIT SCHOOLS NETWORK

February 21, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

The Jesuit Schools Network is seventy-nine Jesuit middle and secondary schools in the United States and five in Canada. Our schools are grieving once again because of the violence that has shattered Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School in Parkland.

We offer our prayers and support to the families of those who were killed and we stand with the students, parents, faculty, and staff who remain, burdened now with the loss of classmates and peers senselessly murdered. The deaths of innocent children and their teachers are the hardest to bear in this terrible trend of violence. We stand with so many voices against the proliferation of guns in our country.

Please remember the statement from the Catholic Bishops of the United States "A Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence" in 2016 when they called on all people of good will to urge Congress to "require universal background checks for all gun purchases; limit civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines, make gun trafficking a federal crime, and improve access to mental health care for those who may be prone to violence."

With the Catholic Bishops, with the school community in Parkland, and with all those who have suffered needlessly because of gun violence in schools across the United States, we declare our support for legislation that would ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and require a background check for gun sales.

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Newtown, Parkland – and others. They are the names of our shame as a Nation. We cannot risk another young life because of our inaction. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



William Muller, S.J.
Executive Director