# Why March for Our Lives Isn't Dead

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March for Our Lives is a demonstration organized and founded by #NeverAgain, the students who had survived the months earlier shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that occured on February 14, 2018. As that shooting was the eighth of that year, people were furious and demanded stricter gun control laws, March For Our Lives having their own demands as well.

March for Our Lives became very big after its demonstration led in Washington D.C on March 24, 2018. Having many sibling marches all in the US and all over the world, this movement got a lot of attention.



After the shootings, #NeverAgain had a few demands on behalf of the issue of the safety of their students.

- 1. Pass a law to ban the assault weapons frequently used to carry out mass shootings"
- 2. "Stop the sale of high capacity magazines, restricting the amount of ammunition"
- 3. "Close Loopholes in America's background checks and implement laws that require background checks on every firearm purchase, including those that occur online or at gun shows".





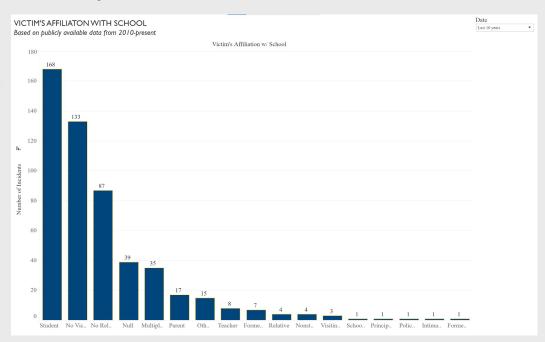
#### **Statistics**

- ¾ of all U.S. murders involved a firearm, 51% of all suicides involved a firearm
- From 1994-2018, 95% of multiple-victim school-associated youth homicides were caused by firearm-related injuries.
- While single-victim school-associated youth homicide rates remained stable from 1994–2016, multiple-victim school-associated youth homicide incidence rates increased significantly from July 2009 to June 2018.



#### **Statistics**

- Firearms used in school-associated homicides and suicides came primarily from the perpetrator's home or from friends or relatives.
- U.S. makes up 5% of the world's population, but has 31% of the world's mass shooters.







HANDGUNS

OF ALL MURDERED
WITHGUNS

1.5 %

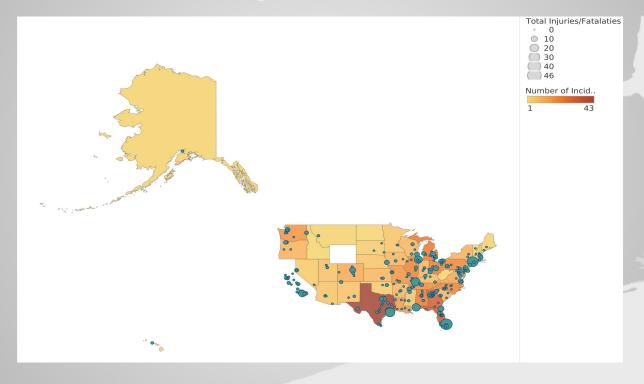
WAS JUSTIFIED SELF-DEFENSE

1991 Study of Washington DC, banning guns found

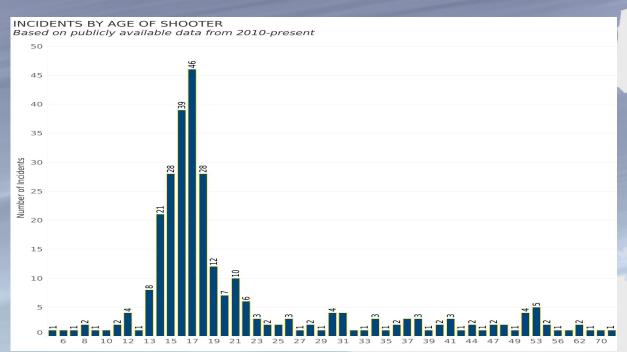
25% DECLINE IN HOMICIDES 23% DECLINE IN SUICIDES



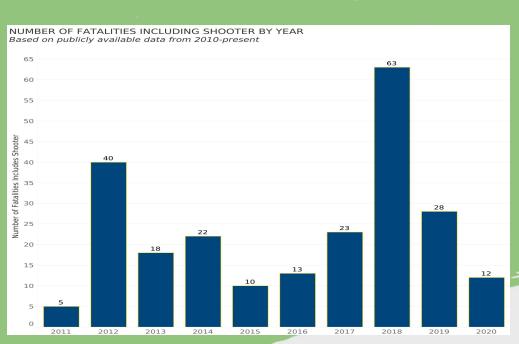
## School Shooting Incidents in the U.S.



#### School Shooting Incidents by Age of Shooter



#### **Number of School Shooting Fatalities**



#### **Gun control:**

#### There are calls to:

- Ban assault weapons
- Implement universal background checks
- Raise the buying age from 18 to
   21

#### Problem:

- Many see gun control as a violation of the 2nd Amendment
- The idea that "guns don't kill people, people kill people"



### **Arming Teachers:**

 Lack of law enforcement on school campuses has led to calls to arm teachers

#### Problem:

- <u>Studies</u> show that in any community, more guns = more homicide
- Many believe that giving teachers another responsibility on top of the ones they already have is problematic

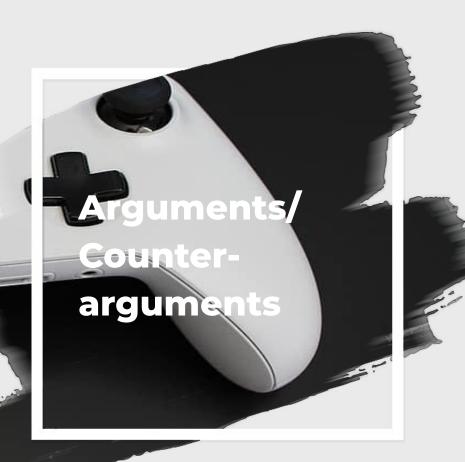
Arguments/ Counterarguments

#### **Video Game Violence**

 Many argue that the advent of violent video games has led to an increase in school gun violence

#### Problem:

- No causal link between violent video games and school shootings
- In Brown v. Entertainment
   Merchants Assoc., the Supreme
   Court also rules against this
   correlation
- Video games 8x more likely to be brought up when the shooter is white rather than black



#### **Mental Health Reform:**

 In a Wash. Post-ABC poll, 77% of Americans believe that better mental health screening/treatment could have prevented the Parkland shooting

#### Problem:

- Such rhetoric creates a stigma around <u>all</u> mentally ill people
- Oversimplifies the link between violence and mental illness
- Singular focus obscures often larger cultural issues



### **Policy Changes**

#### Congressional bills

- ☐ The first gun safety legislation in over a decade was passed (H.R. 8 Bipartisan Background Checks Act)
- □ Congress is currently discussing a number of gun violence prevention bills (H.R. 5717, H.R. 3999, H.R. 4240, etc.)

#### Gun Control state laws

- 280 gun safety bills have been signed into law since the Sandy Hook massacre
- □ 110 gun safety bills have been signed into law in 32 states since the Parkland Shooting
- 9 states have passed laws to reform background checks
- □ 13 states have passed laws to prevent domestic abusers from purchasing guns
- □ 12 states and DC have passed extreme risk protection order laws

What Progress
Has Been Made
So Far?

#### **Movement Achievements**

#### Mass demonstrations and protests

- ☐ In March 2018, more than 800 protests were planned in every state. Sister protests also spanned internationally across 6 continents.
- ☐ The March for Our Lives crowdfunding campaign has raised about \$3.5 million

#### Corporations no longer affiliated with NRA

As of February 24, 2018 over 25 major American corporations cut ties with the NRA (National Rifle Association) as an effort to boycott the organization.

#### Pushed youth-led movement initiative

March for Our Lives is a 100% student-led initiative; its progress over the past 2 years has significantly increased the magnitude of youth-led social/political justice initiatives.

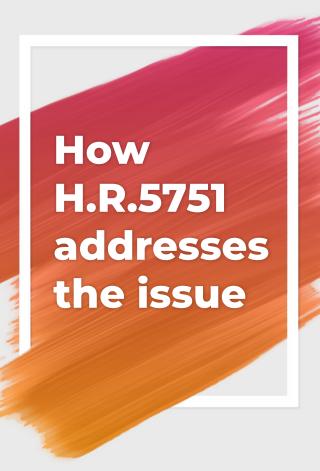
#### Gun violence program investments

□ California increased funding to \$30 million for its community violence reduction programs. Illinois also began to invest \$25 million to a similar program. Six states total have began funding or increased budgets for community violence/gun violence prevention programs.

# What Progress Has Been Made So Far?



H.R.5751-Gun Violence
Prevention and Community
Safety Act of 2020



#### **Bill Provisions**

- generally requires individuals to obtain a license to purchase, acquire, or possess a firearm or ammunition;
- raises the minimum age—from 18 years to 21 years—to purchase firearms and ammunition;
- establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties;



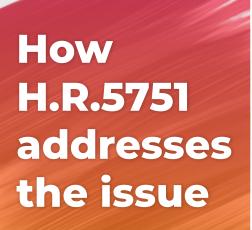
- requires law enforcement agencies to be notified following a firearms-related background check that results in a denial
- creates a statutory process for a family or household member to petition a court for an extreme risk protection order to remove firearms from an individual who poses a risk of committing violence;



- restricts the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices;
- restricts the manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, or receipt of ghost guns (i.e., guns without serial numbers);
- makes trafficking in firearms a stand-alone criminal offense;



- requires federally licensed gun dealers to **submit and annually certify compliance with a security plan** to detect and deter firearm theft;
- removes limitations on the civil liability of gun manufacturers;
- allows the Consumer Product Safety
   Commission to issue safety standards
   for firearms and firearm components;



- establishes a community violence intervention grant program; and
- promotes research on firearms safety and gun violence prevention.



01/30/2020: introduced in the House of Representatives

03/10/2020: referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

This bill is only in its very early stages, which is why we need your help to advocate for it!



You should care about gun safety because of where these shootings are occuring. Being that they are at schools, it seems as if you cannot be safe anywhere, not even in your own classroom. You should care because you should want these schools safe for you and for the next generation of students.



# **Start the Conversation in your Community**

- Talk to your friends and family about the issue of gun violence in America
- Encourage your eligible family members and friends to vote for gun safety bills
- > Speak up about your experience with gun violence and challenge the effectiveness of existing laws in place
- > Attend your local town halls
  - Listen and converse with your neighbors about ways to combat gun violence



#### **VOTE!**

- ➤ Pay attention the platform of your representatives during election season
- ➤ Put your vote towards a candidate who you feel will push to put an end to gun violence in your community



#### Contact your legislators!

- Find your congressional District Representative
  - https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- Find your federal and state representatives and their agendas
  - https://www.commoncause.org/ find-your-representative/addr/



#### Contact your legislators!

- Research their stance on gun regulation and encourage them to support the "Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act" by:
  - Emailing them
  - Calling them
  - Scheduling a meeting with them to discuss ways to promote gun safety in your district

\*\*you can do this even if you are under 18!





DO YOU FEEL
SAFE?



THERE ARE 393
MILLION CIVILIAN-OWNED
FIREARMS IN AMERICA

U.S population: 328.2 million

We have enough guns for every man, woman, and child in the U.S., with 65 million guns leftover



ABUSED women are **5X more likely** to be **killed** if their partner

has a gun



RED STATES ON AVERAGE HAVE THE MOST DEATHS FROM GUN VIOLENCE



FIREARM DEATHS ARE LOWER IN STATES WITH STRICTER GUN

## GET INVOLVED



SIGN PETITIONS ADVOCATING FOR STRICTER GUN REGULATION



EMAIL YOUR REPS. PUSHING THEM TO PASS GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION



JOIN LOCAL YOUTH ADVOCACY
GROUPS & START CONVERSATIONS
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

### MARCH FOR OUR LIVES IS NOT DEAD



#MARCHFOROURLIVES

# WHAT IS H.R.5751?

ALSO KNOWN AS THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT OF 2020, H.R. 5751
IS A PROPOSED BILL THAT WOULD IMPLEMENT GUN
LAWS ON A FEDERAL LEVEL



#### THE BILL WOULD.

- RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PURCHASE OF FIREARMS FROM 18 TO 21
- WIDELY RESTRICT THE USE OF SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARMS
- RESTRICT THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF GHOST GUNS
- PROMOTE RESEARCH ON FIREARMS SAFETY AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
- AND MORE

# WHERE IS THE BILL NOW?

AS OF JAN 30, 2020, THE BILL HAS ONLY
BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



# HOW CANI HELP?



CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES!
ASK THEM TO ADVOCATE FOR THE BILL.

FIND YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE HERE AT: HTTPS://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/REPRESENTATIVE S/FIND-YOUR-REPRESENTATIVE

TOGETHER,
WE CAN
MAKE OUR
FUTURE SAFE

