



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
Community Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

SENATOR DAPHNE CAMPBELL

38th District

February 19, 2018

The Honorable Joe Negron
Senate President
305 Senate Office Building
405 Capitol Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear President Negron:

On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, another massacre, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, took place. I'm sure you as well as others sat in shock and disbelief as we watched the news reveal how many students were injured and how many students and teachers lost their lives in this latest tragedy. I know I did.

This massacre was allegedly done by a former student while using an AR-15 rifle. With this news, it is imperative that we act now and pass meaningful legislation that can address the issue of mass shootings and stop future tragedies. I request that under your leadership, the Florida Senate hold hearings on legislation filed for the past two years banning assault weapons that will finally end this reign of terror.

During the last 35 years, there have been 13 mass shootings where an AR-15 style rifle was the weapon of choice. Just two years ago, 49 victims at the Pulse Nightclub died in a hail of bullets fired from another man with another AR-15. Moments of silence were held. The Old Capitol was ringed with crosses and photos in their memory as promises were made but nothing was done.

In announcing your priorities on ensuring school safety, one component was glaringly omitted – the key element every single one of these shooters using assault weapons had in common. Because while some were young, most were older than 21. While some may have had mental issues in their past, not all of them officially did. Some targeted children; others did not discriminate. The one single thing each and every one had in common was access and possession

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 633 N.E. 167th Street, Suite 1101, North Miami Beach, Florida 33162 (305) 493-6009
- ☐ 218 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5038

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JOE NEGRON
President of the Senate

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President Pro Tempore

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of an assault rifle, a military weapon of war that has been repeatedly turned on our own children and citizens.

So as you discuss shoring up our schools, turning them into mini-fortresses, and kick around how to filter the truly mentally ill from those who are simply acting out, consider the dangers to which you continue to expose these kids once they leave the school. So long as assault rifles like the AR-15 are legally sold in this state, so long as they are not banned, their threat to civilians will remain in every mall, in every movie theater, and in every public place of gathering.

As you know, there is currently legislation languishing in the Senate and House which would finally stop this carnage. SB 196 and HB 219 would finally outlaw the weapons so many have used for so much killing. They would finally cut the single cord binding these mass shooters together.

I urge you to put the power of your office into bringing these bills to the floor, and allow the representatives of the people to cast their votes before this legislative session ends.

It's time to stop blaming everything and everyone but the true culprit for the very real threat students face every day, and not just in the classroom.

It's time to hold these assault weapons accountable. It's time to hear the bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

Daphne Campbell, RN
State Senator, District 38