

Responding to your message

1 message

Senator Marco Rubio <Do_Not_Reply@rubio.senate.gov>
To: walrus751@gmail.com

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MARCO RUBIO
FLORIDA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Dear Mr. McDermott,

Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts regarding the Second Amendment. Understanding your views helps me to better represent Florida in the United States Senate, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.” That is why I have always supported the right of law-abiding Americans to bear arms to protect themselves and their families.

All too often, we see politicians who want to exploit tragedies – both here in Florida and across the country – as an excuse to erode that constitutionally protected right. I am committed to working with my colleagues in the Senate to create a more effective system to prevent senseless gun violence, but we must do it in a way that protects the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

The Congress has previously come together, in a bipartisan manner, to make our schools safer. The 2018 Valentine’s Day senseless massacre of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland shocked the nation. It also served as a catalyst for action, and my bipartisan Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act (P.L. 115-141) became law just five weeks later. Within that same law, we were also able to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by passing the Fix NICS Act.

And in Florida, the Republican-led state legislature and Republican governor created a system of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which help law enforcement and families by providing the ability to temporarily prevent individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing firearms. The Florida law also contains critical due process protections, something I would require under my bipartisan Extreme Risk Protection Order and Violence Prevention Act (S. 292), which would establish U.S. Department of Justice grants to states that enact extreme risk protection order laws with robust due process protections. I first introduced S. 292 in the 116th Congress, and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this commonsense legislation.

Often, the media and politicians believe weakening the Second Amendment is the only way to prevent future tragedies. I believe we must be proactive and utilize a multi-pronged approach to identify and stop threats.

After the Parkland tragedy, I met with the families and friends of those who lost loved ones. I met with school resource experts, and convened a roundtable discussion of what can be done to prevent future tragedies from happening. I then led a bipartisan group of members of Congress in calling for the Trump Administration to create a federal clearinghouse on best practices for school safety. SchoolSafety.gov launched in March 2020, and I am optimistic that this initiative will respond directly to the needs of schools to improve safety protocols. I recently also reintroduced the Luke and Alex School Safety Act of 2021 (S. 111), which seeks to codify the clearinghouse effort. I am also an original cosponsor of the EAGLES Act of 2021 (S. 391), which would reauthorize and expand the U.S. Secret Service’s National Threat Assessment Center to help communities proactively mitigate threats of violence at schools. You may also be interested to know that last Congress, I introduced the bipartisan Threat Assessment, Prevention, and Safety (TAPS) Act of 2019 (S. 265), which would create a task force of experts to provide recommendations for a national strategy to keep communities safe from targeted violence through threat assessment and management. I look forward to reintroducing this legislation in the new Congress.

I will always fight to make Florida, its communities, and its schools safer, and I am confident we can do so in a bipartisan way that protects an individual’s right to own firearms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator. I will keep your thoughts in mind as I consider these issues and continue working to ensure America remains a safe and prosperous nation.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator