



[WASHINGTON, D.C.] A shooter in Parkland, Florida shot and killed at least 17 people today and left dozens more injured at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This is the 18th school shooting of 2018.

The shooter, now in custody, was reportedly a former student who apparently chose an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle to use as his weapon. These types of weapons have been used in mass shootings again and again from Sandy Hook School to Orlando to Las Vegas. This shooting is further proof that semiautomatic military weapons do not belong in the hands of civilians.

"We must face a new reality in America. " said SUPGV National Director Victoria Coy. "We hardly have time between deadly shootings to catch our breath. The time for thoughts and prayers is a luxury we cannot afford. The time for action is now. If Congress will not act than state legislature must lead the fight."

"Our hearts go out to those affected by this shooting in Parkland and we stand together with them in this tragedy and later in trying to understand and prevent such senseless violence," said Beth Roth, Southern Regional Board Member of States United to Prevent Gun Violence. "We join with the hundreds of gun violence prevention advocates who work on the ground in Florida every day to say that this level of violence is enough. The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and the League of Women Voters of Florida are calling upon the Florida Legislature currently in Session to hear and pass the ban on assault weapons — HB 219 and SB 196. We applaud their call and also ask Congress to take action to prevent future tragedies in our schools, movie theaters, and homes."

"America is now averaging one school shooting every two and a half days," said Coy. "It is time for our lawmakers to honor the young people who lost their lives today in Parkland by working together to end gun violence."

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Founded by state-based gun violence prevention organizations to support state efforts to end gun violence, States United provides vital resources and support so that each state affiliate can tailor priorities and solutions to fit its unique challenges. SUPGV also works at the state and national level to raise awareness and engage the public to #EndGunViolence.