

When planning this walkout, I contacted legislators at every level of government—city councilmen, state senators, and congressmen. I got one email back. That email was from Utah State Senator Curt Bramble, saying that he was in Canada and couldn't attend. I got no responses, at all, from anyone else.

It would be one thing for legislators to listen to our protests and try to pass legislation that keeps assault rifles out of schools.

It's another thing to refuse to even show up or entertain the idea that their teenage constituents have things to say and demand to be heard.

Our safety apparently isn't worth their time.

We don't feel safe at school, but they aren't willing to respond to an email.

So to our legislators-

Your constituents voted you into your elected positions, and we as your future voter base can and will vote you out of them.

You work for us.

So to our employees who refuse to do their jobs; to our employees at the local, state, and federal levels who continue to sell away our lives in exchange for campaign donations; to our employees who offer only Twitter thoughts and prayers instead of extensive background checks and mental health screenings—

Your time has run out.

We refuse to go to school afraid of what might happen to us.

We refuse to watch any more of our peers lose their lives in preventable murders.

We refuse to let organizations with deep pockets risk our lives for profit.

We refuse to let the next generation of students grow up normalizing school shootings.

We refuse to be told our right to life is less important than your right to a gun/weapon of war.

We refuse to be silenced.