

## Walkout Speech

Today, we walk out with high schools in every state. We join teenagers across the nation who have decided enough is enough. While our government remains divided on this issue, we stand together. We are not naive. We are not too young to understand. While our politicians engage in petty fights, refusing to compromise, we realize that there is only one way we can make a change. And that is together. This is not a fight about *which* solution, this is a fight for a good one to be made. You're either with us or against us. This is bigger than politics. We are fighting for our lives.

I am 16 year old. I am unable to vote. I cannot run for office. Adults everywhere in my life make decisions for me. And those adults who make decisions have not been doing their duty to protect children like me without a choice. The children that die. The children that live in fear because we were raised in the wake of Columbine. The children that have grown up hearing the headline. But what little voice my peers and I have is being twisted by the media who are saying that we are pawns in the liberal's game. We are not. We have no agenda other than the obvious one: We want people to stop dying. We aren't being paid for our viewpoint like the politicians of our nation. We want change. We want the government for the people to protect its people rather than itself.

All of the top 5 mass shootings in US history have happened in my lifetime. So we will not be silenced. We will fight for the change our country needs until it happens. I believe in my right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those 17 people that were killed had those rights tragically torn from them. Never again will we stay silent

when we have a responsibility to scream for the lives that were taken. When we have an obligation to speak for those who no longer can. We are the rising generation. We are the future. This is our movement. The movement of teenagers who know what it is to fear. Who are ready to fight. And we say never again.