Dear Gun Rights Supporters,

This one might not be a drill. I hear the principal and his booming yet steady voice come over the PA and say, "The school is going into lockdown. I repeat, the school is going into lockdown." All 28 of us in the classroom slowly shuffle across the room next to the bright pink X poster. My teacher pulls his phone out to check for any notifications, while three students start to push the teachers desk in front of the door. It's completely quiet, except for the sound of the breathing of students. We panic a little, *is this real? Or is this just a drill?* We hear a hard and firm knock on the door. Everybody stays still. We hear a harder knock, louder this time. My teacher slowly lifts up the paper to see if it's the police. We see a police officer, and the tension in the room releases. Thank god this one was only a drill.

School shootings have happened so often, I can't even tell what is real and what is fake. People have become so immune to gun violence and mass shootings that they're not even phased by it anymore. I know it's sad to say, but when I see that a mass shooting has occurred, I am not phased by it. It's the norm, right? Panic, scream, blood, repeat. Politicians thoughts, what should we do about it, and prayers, repeat. Funerals, crying, death, repeat. Trust me, my generation knows and sees way too much about mass shootings and gun violence.

We are still trying to come up with an idea that will benefit the people who believe in the second amendment, and the people who are against gun violence. There are higher rates of gun violence in states with weak gun laws. This means that states that aren't as strict with gun laws have more mass shootings or gun violence, which makes complete sense. So, maybe if we create better gun laws this might help the amount of gun violence go down. Although it's a small step, it's pushing us in the right direction.

The second amendment which is the right to bear arms, was created in historical context. Back then, most people lived in rural areas with no police which is why it made total sense to have a gun. They were used for protection because they had nobody else to protect them. Now, *anybody* can get their hands on a gun. Nowadays, with so many people having mental illness problems, is it really necessary to own a gun? Now that we have police is it appropriate to own a firearm? But, there is always going to be a bad apple in the batch which is what most people forget. I know that most people understand that gun violence is bad and that a mass shooting won't make anything better, yet only worse. Unfortunately there are people in the world who are just out to hurt others. This is why I think we need to make better gun laws so people can't get their hands on a gun easily.

In 2018 alone, there were 294 mass shootings, so far. As the outcome of all mass shootings, 1,135 people have been tragically killed. This year some of the most recognized mass shootings were, Pittsburg Pennsylvania, 11 Dead, 7 injured. Parkland Florida, 17 Dead, 17 injured. Santa Fe Texas, 10 Dead, 13 injured. These are just to name a few. This cannot keep happening.

When that classroom door opens, I hope it's always a police officer.

I hope I don't see someone ready to open fire on the 28 innocent students in my class.