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School Shooting in Uvalde, TX.

Lincoln, NE -- There was another school shooting in the United States, this time in Uvalde, TX. The students at the elementary were aware this could happen at their school, as they've likely been practicing school shooter drills since preschool. In 2011, a 17 year old took his dad's gun and killed people at Omaha high school, Millard South. In 2018, after the last major high school shooting in Parkland, FL., Nebraska students across the state, walked out of their high schools, held public meetings, and marched for their lives.

In 2022, Nebraska State Senator Tom Brewer used the first day of the legislature to proclaim that his priority bill would be removing training and background checks for concealed handguns – the same bill that was passed in TX less than one year ago. The bill failed, but did have the support of the following senators: Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Bostelman, Brandt, Briese, Clements, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Gragert, Halloran, B Hansen, Hilgers, Hughes, Jacobson, Kolterman, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McKinney, Moser, Murman, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart.

Nebraskans were promised that next year there would be guns at the capitol to increase their lobbying efficacy.

Early reports indicate that the shooter in Texas is 18 years old, perhaps still a highschool student. The <u>American Psychological Association</u> reports that 72% of teenagers find the possibility of a school shooting to be a significant source of stress.

Nearly half of all homicide victims are killed with a firearm in Nebraska and more than half of all suicides are completed with a firearm.

We cannot go back in the past and do the things we did not have the courage or will to do. However, we can do better today. We can individually ensure our firearms are unloaded and locked up with ammo stored separately. We can demand that our schools educate families on the importance of keeping guns away from kids. We can demand elected officials bring policy that keeps kids safe at school like banning assault weapons, requiring safe storage, and ensuring society has the tools necessary to disarm dangerous people.

Nebraskans Against Gun Violence is a 501c3 grassroots organization committed to eliminating gun violence in our communities. Learn more about the organization at www.nagv.org or follow us on social media.