Senate

of the

Student Government Association

of

The Johns Hopkins University

{ *S. Resolution 17-18, 04* }

A Resolution expressing solidarity with the victims and survivors of the Parkland School Shooting, support for the activism emerging from the tragedy, and a call for national action on mass shootings and gun reform

Introduced By: Vice President **AJ Tsang** and considered this **13th** day of **March** in the Year **2018**

Sponsored By: Senator **Aspen Williams** of the **Freshman** Class

Senator **Lauren Paulet** of the **Freshman** Class

President **Anthony Boutros** of the **Sophomore** Class

Referred to the Senate by **THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** which recommends its **PASSAGE** by a vote of **X** to **X**.

Whereas February 14th, 2018 bore witness to one of the most deadly school shootings in American history, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and teachers were killed; and

Whereas the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida and additional school shootings in the last two decades, such as those at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Virginia Tech, have been primarily perpetrated by semi-automatic weapons, such as the AR-15; and

Whereas national action to prevent further mass shootings has stalled or moved tepidly in the time since the Parkland shooting, stemming from a lack of political agreement on the means to address mass shootings and the blatant unwillingness of certain legislators with ties to the firearm industry to act proactively; and

Whereas in comparison to the time period after previous mass shootings of similar scope, advocacy regarding national action on gun violence has remained energized by a collection of passionate student advocates from Parkland, Florida, indicating a significant chance for this particular push for gun reform to remain strong in the coming months and years; and

Whereas a significant body of academic research affirms that the most practical and long-lasting solutions to mass shootings in schools include the creation of gun-free school zones, expansion of background checks on firearm sales, elimination of semi-automatic and automatic (assault) firearm sales, and elimination of high-capacity magazines, among additional measures to address fundamental cause factors behind domestic gun violence[1]; and

Whereas aggregate data from 2018 public opinion polls indicates that the general public strongly supports stricter gun laws (66%), including background checks for all firearm purchases (87%), raising the minimum firearm purchase age to 21 (76%), blocking gun sales to individuals with a history of mental illness (86%), banning assault weapons (62%), and banning high-capacity ammunition magazines (67%)[2]; and

Whereas in the face of the aforementioned evidence, it is the solemn duty and moral imperative of students at Hopkins and across the country to stand in solidarity with their peers advocating for stronger measures to end the epidemic of mass shootings in the United States; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association affirms its full and unwavering solidarity to the victims, survivors, and families of the Parkland School Shooting; and in the memory of the myriad students across history who have lost their lives to school shootings, faithfully resolves to do anything in its power and capacity to aid the cause of resolving gun violence in the United States.

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[1] Webster, Daniel W, et al. *The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America*. Johns Hopkins University Center for Gun Policy and Reform. 2012. [Link]
Consortium for Risk Based Firearm Policy. *Guns, Public Health, and Mental Illness: An Evidence-Based Approach for Federal Policy*. 2013. [Link]
"Center Publications." *Center for Gun Policy and Research*, Johns Hopkins University, Jan. 2018, Center for Gun Policy and Research. [Link]

[2] Mehta, Dhrumil, and Julia Wolfe. "Do You Know Where America Stands On Guns?" *FiveThirtyEight*, 9 Mar. 2018, [Link]
"Fivethirtyeight/Data." *GitHub*, 9 Mar. 2018, [Link]

Be It Further Resolved that the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association calls on the Johns Hopkins University, its peer institutions in the Consortium of Financing Higher Education (COFHE), and post-secondary institutions and colleges across the United States to express solidarity and ally themselves with the cause of reducing gun violence and school shootings by:

A. Supporting their students and affiliates who wish to engage in walk-outs, moments of silence, demonstrations, and other activities expressing solidarity with and taking action alongside the victims and survivors of the Parkland shooting by granting appropriate academic absences or work leave;
B. Extending a personal invitation to apply and give additional consideration to applicants who are survivors of or family members of victims of the Parkland shooting and all victims of school shootings in the United States;
    a. Maintaining indefinitely, and promulgating profusely, its policy of not punishing student applicants who engage in peaceful advocacy in favor of gun reform;
C. Refraining from bestowing honorary degrees or awards unto public policymakers and public officials who have failed or are failing to support gun control measures, especially those measures designed to protect vulnerable populations like primary and secondary school students;
D. Divesting from any companies or entities involved with firearm development, production, sales, and/or distribution;
E. Refusing to invest in any campus-safety initiative that would arm JHU affiliates, including faculty, staff, and any affiliate employed by the University security apparatus;
    a. Ensuring that any public safety initiatives sponsored by the University are supported by appropriate research, such as the Bloomberg School of Public Health's 2016 report on campus firearms[3], so as to avoid any gun violence on University campuses;
F. Limiting the presence of gun-usage advocates[4] on campus in the name of public safety and public health, and, should University affiliates or entities request the presence of gun-usage advocates, cordially denying those requests; and
G. Refraining to elect to its Board of Trustees or other steering/governing bodies any individual who has invested in or previously supported firearm companies;
    a. Encouraging any current Board of Trustees member with personal holdings firearm firms to relinquish such holdings in firearm firms.

Be It Further Resolved that the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association demands and implores the United States Congress to act swiftly and efficiently on the issue of gun reform by taking concrete action to limit gun violence and ensure gun safety, including but not limited to:

A. Following through on legislation to ensure the ban of the sale of assault weapons, semi-automatic weapons, automatic weapons, and their domestic production;

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[3] Webster, Daniel W, et al. *Firearms on College Campuses: Research Evidence and Policy Implications*. Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Gun Policy and Reform. 2016. [Link]

[4] Addendum of Clarification: In this clause, the term "advocates" refers to entities external to the University, and does *not* refer to JHU students, faculty, staff, alumni or other affiliates.

B. Strengthen and expand background checks on all gun sales, and most especially those of assault, automatic and semi-automatic weapons;
C. Banning the construction and sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines;
D. Raise the minimum age required to purchase firearms to the age of 21 years;
E. Block the sale of firearms to individuals with a history of mental illness and individuals currently monitored on federal intelligence agencies' criminal watchlists;
F. Working with state governments to ensure gun-free school zones in every school and school district across the nation; and
    a. Limiting any further presence of firearms in schools by *not* pursuing policy measures that would arm teachers or staff.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to:

1. The University Board of Trustees;
2. University President Ron Daniels;
3. University Provost Sunil Kumar;
4. University Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger;
5. The central office of the Consortium of Financing Higher Education (COFHE);
6. Bloomberg School of Public Health (BSPH) Dean Ellen Mackenzie;
7. The BSPH Center for Gun Policy and Research;
8. The United States Congressional Delegation from Maryland; and
9. Through the Congressional Delegation from Maryland, the United States Congress.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent in solidarity to the Student Government of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the city government of Parkland Florida, and the Broward County Public School District.

THE RESOLUTION HEREBY **PASSES** BY A VOTE OF **15** TO **0** WITH **0** ABSTENTIONS.

Upon adoption, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Senate to be affixed to this resolution indicating the senate's assent and thus officially designating the resolution's adoption as the position and is will of the Senate and the Student Body of The Johns Hopkins University.

Signatures of Enactment:

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AJ Tsang
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Noh Mebrahtu
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Rushabh Doshi
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

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Mi Tu
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony:

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Aspen Williams
Freshman Class Senator

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Lauren Paulet
Freshman Class Senator

Anthony Boutros
Sophomore Class President