

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
27th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
LAURIE JINKINS

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

JUDICIARY
CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS



March 22, 2018

March for Our Lives, Tacoma
c/o Nate Minor
Truman Middle School
5801 N 35th St
Tacoma WA 98407

Dear Students,

Your activism in response to gun violence in our schools and communities is inspiring and gives me great hope. Thank you for standing up, speaking out, and turning your fear and outrage into activism.

During my eight years as a state legislator, I've been committed to taking action to prevent gun violence and keep our communities safer. I've always said lawmakers should be judged not on what we say about gun violence, but on what we do. Big changes don't happen overnight in the Legislature, but I know the public is way ahead of lawmakers when it comes to gun violence. Here in Washington State, the voters overwhelmingly approved expanded background checks for gun sales and extreme risk protection orders at the ballot box. Progress on bills in the Legislature has been more incremental, but I'm pleased that this year we were able to pass four separate measures that will help keep our communities safer. In addition to banning bump stock devices, lawmakers approved measures closing a gap in state law regarding eligibility for concealed pistol licenses, allowing anyone struggling or in crisis to place themselves on a firearms do-not-purchase list and adding domestic violence harassment to the list of conditions that prevent someone from being able to buy a firearm.

But there's more that can be done to keep guns out of the hands of those determined to use them to kill or harm others. I'm not satisfied, and I know neither are you. Going forward, your voices will continue to be critical to this conversation. I urge you to keep speaking out. Keep holding your elected officials accountable for the safety of our communities. Even if you cannot vote yet, you can still engage with leaders at the local, state, and national level. Demand action from them, and remind them that you are keeping track of what they're doing to prevent gun violence. Send emails. Write letters to the editor. Once the Legislature convenes again next January, come to Olympia and testify in public hearings on gun-related legislation. Register to vote, and then make sure your voice is heard at the ballot box. This will be easier since the Legislature passed several "Access to Democracy" bills this year that include same-day voter registration, automatic voter registration, and pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds.

Young people are leading the way on this issue, and I stand with you.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LJ", representing Laurie Jinkins.

Representative Laurie Jinkins, 27th Legislative District

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7930
E-MAIL: Laurie.Jinkins@leg.wa.gov
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993 • www.lcg.wa.gov