



## CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

### An Open Letter to Elected Officials in Connecticut

As Heads of Independent Schools in Connecticut, responsible for the education and physical safety of children, we are heartbroken over the recent massacre in Parkland, Florida. We stand in support of the Parkland survivors and their efforts to effect change.

Connecticut residents can take pride in the knowledge that our state is viewed nationally as a leader in advancing gun safety and that our legislators are committed to expanding existing protections and introducing thoughtful and reasonable new measures.

Unfortunately, the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are continuing evidence that true gun safety in Connecticut and across all of America remains an elusive goal. Although it is illegal to possess military grade guns and assault grade ammunition in Connecticut, our state borders are welcoming to all and our protection is therefore limited.

For those of us who care for children in schools, December 14th 2012 is remembered as the saddest day in our careers. Twenty Connecticut children between six and seven years old and six adult staff members lost their lives while at school.

The United States leads the world in the number of guns per capita; it leads in homicides, suicides and accidental deaths involving guns; and it leads the world in the number of children killed by guns, every year. In these grim statistical categories, no nation comes close to our level of violence and gun-related death. As long as we continue to view gun safety as a partisan, political conversation we will struggle to achieve the protection available in many other countries in the world.

The undersigned Heads of School in Connecticut's independent school community implore our elected state officials and state representatives in Congress to capitalize on the reputation they have earned for recognizing the magnitude of this human rights issue. There can be no more compelling issue for bipartisan cooperation than the safety of America's children.

Our children deserve better.

Elizabeth Miller, Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Luralton Hall	Katherine G. Windsor, Miss Porter's School
Kenneth H. LaRocque, Avon Old Farms School	Patrice Champagne, Montessori Discovery School
Rabbi Zev Silver, The Bess & Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy	Kathy Aldridge, Montessori School of Greater Hartford
Jacqueline Herman, Bi-Cultural Day School	Lisa Potter, The Montessori School - Wilton
Elizabeth Deshotel, Bridgeport Hope School	Reed Rathgeber, Mooreland Hill School
Thomas W. Philip, Brunswick School	Robert Macrae, New Canaan Country School
Rachel Stone, Canterbury School	Christian Cashman, Northwest Catholic High School
Nora Anderson, Carmel Academy	David Klein, Norwich Free Academy
Julie Anderson, Cheshire Academy	Robert F. Curis, Notre Dame High School
Maureen Murphy, The Children's School	Susan Angelides, Oak Grove Montessori School
Alex D. Curtis, Choate Rosemary Hall	Philip B. Cocchiola, Oxford Academy
Mary Lou Cobb, The Cobb School - Montessori	Sarah Marchesi, Pierrepont School
Arati Pandit, Cold Spring School	Diana Owen, Pine Point School
John Fixx, The Country School	J. Timothy Richards, Pomfret School
Glenn Winfree, Covenant Preparatory School	Frederick W. Williams, The Rectory School
Marjorie E. Castro, Eagle Hill School	Scott Hutchinson, Renbrook School
Jody Roher Smith & Suellen Inwood, Easton Country Day School	James Heus, Ridgefield Academy
Meera Viswanathan, The Ethel Walker School	Matthew S. Hoeniger, Rumsey Hall School
Melanie Waynik, Ezra Academy	Sr. Sheila O'Neill, ASCI, Sacred Heart Academy of Hamden
Fr. Thomas Simisky, Fairfield College Preparatory School	Pamela Juan Hayes, Sacred Heart Greenwich
John R. Munro, Jr., Fairfield Country Day School	Mark C. Davis, St. Luke's School
Carol Maoz, The Foote School	Allison Rivera, St. Martin de Porres Academy
Adam Man, Forman School	Matthew Quinn, St. Thomas More School
Chris Robertson, Fraser Woods Montessori School	Gina Panza, St. Thomas's Day School
Maryann Campbell, The Glenholme School-Devereaux CT	Chisholm Chandler, Salisbury School
Matthew Fitzsimons, Grace Academy	Barbara Wolfe, Solomon Schechter Academy
Janet Hartwell, Greens Farms Academy	Andrea Kasper, Solomon Schechter Day School, Hartford
Molly King, Greenwich Academy	Andrew J. Vadnais, South Kent School
Adam Rohdie, Greenwich Country Day School	Benjamin N. Powers, The Southport School
Peter W. E. Becker, The Gunnery	Charles Sachs, The Stanwich School
Robert J. Izzo, Hamden Hall Country Day School	Charles Cahn III, Suffield Academy
Kai Bynum, Hopkins School	William R. MacMullen, The Taft School
Craig Bradley, The Hotchkiss School	Sharon Lauer, The Unquowa School
Leslie Lew, Housatonic Valley Waldorf School	Diane McManus, Villa Maria School
Jody Reilly Soja, Indian Mountain School	Patricia Werner, Washington Montessori School
The Rev. Richardson W. Schell, Kent School	Jody Visage, Waterside School
Thomas B. Main, King School	Teri Schrader, Watkinson School
Dennis Bisgaard, Kingswood Oxford School	William V. N. Philip, Westminster School
Cara Johnson, Litchfield Montessori School	Julie Faulstich, Westover School
Kris Bria, The Long Ridge School	Simone Becker, Whitby School
Sheila Culbert, The Loomis Chaffee School	Mark Fader, The Williams School
Arthur Goodearl, The Marvelwood School	Matthew C. Woodhall, The Woodhall School
Stephanie Whitney, The Mead School	Matthew Byrnes, Wooster School