From:	Kasey Talbot <KCRegina76@live.com>
Sent:	Wednesday, March 21, 2018 2:17 PM
To:	Marjorie Zunder
Subject:	School safety testimony- Travis Talbot

My name is Travis Talbot. I am 13 years old in 8th grade at the Newark Street School in Newark . I am blessed to not only live in one of the safest states in the union but also in a rural town and attend a small school. I do not fear each day that something bad will happen at my school like it did in Florida, Columbine or Maryland, even though we had an "almost" incident here in Vermont. We did not participate in last week's walk out, however I would like to say a few things about school safety. I have grown up in a gun owning home and been taught from a very young age that guns are NOT toys, they are tools to be respected. I have taken Hunter Education and have used guns since I was seven safely and with respect for what they are and what they can do. I believe that educating young people on how serious guns are and the true and finite consequences involved in using them would help keep young people safe. Because of where I live, how I was raised and the community I live in, I cant imagine a kid not understanding how serious guns are but the news shows me daily there are a lot of kids who just don't get it. I think too often young people don't have a real sense of guns but instead have a video game, "do over" mentality around them, or are fearful of them and may advocate against them without properly understanding what rights individuals have to own them. I do not think getting rid of certain kinds of guns or putting age limits on owning guns will keep kids safe. Evil people will do evil things at any age with whatever they have available to them. If we could invest more in mental health issues and firearms education, increase school safety protocols and security and maybe have trained armed people at schools, I think that would help with school safety. Thank you for your time.

Travis Talbot
Newark VT
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