To whom this is being addressed to,

   My name is Allura Garcia-Buckler, and I'm a sophomore at Essex High school. I am writing this as my testimony for this meeting, in hopes that it will be treated with validity as all of the students' opinions matter. I believe that people should stop focusing on how a student committed a heinous act, but rather why the student did, by this I mean mental health.

 No one talks about the subject nearly as much as it should be, as for many it can be personal. I admit even for me it hits close to home as I suffer from depression and high anxiety. In my experience, schools hardly do anything for students like me. They tell you to call a crisis hotline, but they will put you on hold like your crisis doesn't matter when these kids should be told they matter.

These students are the ones people call outcasts, weirdos, etc. At my school, there is a fellow student who I consider a friend, I will not use his name out of respect for him. But this student, after the Parkland Florida tragedy, was called out of class five times in three or four days because people called him a school shooter. He is one of the sweetest kids I know. You want to know how you make someone something they aren't, you keep telling them they are.

Which is why I bring this up to you today. Students are too busy judging others or complaining about miniscule things instead of thinking about their school work or making new friends with that kid who sits alone at lunch. If people really think that putting more regulations on guns will stop someone from doing a horrible act they had already planned, then you're wrong. If someone intentions are horrible acts they will do whatever they can to fulfill that act. What I am asking the state to do, is think about the mental health of your children, and to remember that guns don't kill people. People kill people.

Sincerely,

Allura Garcia-Buckler,
EHS Sophomore