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To Our Representatives and Lawmakers:

On October 27th, 2018, eleven people were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Armed with an AR-15 and three handguns, the shooter injured six more people, four of whom were police officers. This act of hatred has deeply affected the City of Pittsburgh. It is imperative that we uphold our core values and welcome people of all races, religions, identities, and ideologies.

It is in this spirit we write to you, our elected officials and lawmakers, urging you to be proactive in preventing the recurrence of such acts. Today, it is more important than ever that not one more terrorist, domestic or otherwise, can get their hands on weapons that enable their brutality.

Therefore, we, the undersigned college and university students and student governments call for stricter regulation on the sale of assault weapons, including but not limited to:

- Expansion of background check requirements to be comprehensive, stringent, and intrusive.
- Closure of the gun show loophole through the revision of the Gun Show Loophole Closing Act of 2017 (H.R. 1612 - introduced March, 2017)
- The immediate federal banning of bump stocks and any other device that allows for legal weapons to become illegal.

It is time for our lawmakers to put aside partisanship. This is not a matter of Democratic or Republican affiliation, but rather of safeguarding the most fundamental principles upon which our nation was built – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Those with malice in their hearts, who aim to strip others of their fundamental right to life, must not have the ability to get their hands on lethal firearms.

The City of Pittsburgh has come together to support the Jewish community and combat anti-Semitism; thousands have attended vigils and made donations. However, action must also be taken by our lawmakers to create policy that actively prevents future tragedies.

As young Americans, our generation has never known this country without gun violence. Beginning with Columbine in 1999, our reality has always been contaminated by this plague.

Virginia Tech. Newtown. Charleston. San Bernardino. Orlando. Las Vegas. Parkland. Pittsburgh. Thousand Oaks.

There are many more atrocities that we do not have the space to list. Shootings like these have become far too frequent headlines. Thoughts and prayers alone will no longer suffice. You cannot remain silent any longer; we demand change.

Sincerely,

The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board