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### Stopping Gun Violence

There is no greater problem with society than the one we now face, the issue that haunts our dreams and our very realities. Even at school, the place where we should feel most safe, we are not free from this problem. Damaged youth are given the means to achieve whatever sick ends they desire. The availability of such destructive firepower enables these damaged souls to do their worst. They are given opportunity to walk into a gun store and obtain the means to live out their fantasies.

When I walk into school today, things have changed. There is no longer any confidence in the attitude of the students, of the teachers. We lock our doors from the inside, we look out the windows suspiciously at mere maintenance men, we have become afraid. It is this very fear, this cancerous anxiety, that cripples school systems all across the country. We live in fear because there is a chance it could happen to us. The gun stores stay open. In fact, there is a gun store not half a mile down the road from our school. At any moment some troubled kid could walk in there and buy a gun. Nothing is being done about this issue. It saddens me that the possibility of annihilation is actually supported by many groups as a fulfillment of the Second Amendment.

I want nothing more in life than to be able to come to Washington D.C, to stand proudly with my youth in an act not founded in fear but in defiance. In retaliation to what gun violence has

personally done to our lives. I would be proud to march for this cause, to connect with students all over this country, to at least show our strength, and to *try* and make a difference.