



The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County  
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To the Editor:

Like the majority of Americans, the members of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County are sickened and outraged by the tragic shooting of students and adults in Parkland, Florida. And we are outraged that Congress fails to recognize the role that access to guns, and especially assault rifles, plays in the shootings that plague our society. We need sensible gun control laws to protect our children, families and society.

Our fairly strict NYS gun laws don't really protect us because it is so easy to bring guns into our state from states with lax regulation. We need federal laws against automatic and semi-automatic weapons, bump stocks, silencers and other weapons that can be used for mass assassinations. Then we need background checks before every gun purchase.

There are legitimate uses for guns – like hunting and target shooting. And many families depend on hunting to supplement their diet, but they don't need (or want) an assault rifle for that purpose. So we want sensible laws, not an outright ban on all guns.

Of course, solving the problem of gun deaths requires more than limiting access to guns – safety education and emergency response procedures immediately come to mind – but limiting access to guns is the first step. We call on our U.S. Senators and Representatives to stand up to the NRA and pass sensible gun control laws.

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