



**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Superintendent L. Karen Monroe  
Alameda County Office of Education  
313 West Winton Ave  
Hayward, CA 94544

March 9, 2018

Dear Superintendent Monroe,

As your district prepares for the National School Walk Out in protest of gun violence on March 14, 2018, I write in support of participating students and invite your public support and reassurances that your district's students will not face disciplinary action for peacefully exercising the protections afforded by the First Amendment.

The short (seventeen-minute) proposed protest conducted peacefully and lawfully in concert with a national day of civic engagement does not create a substantial disruption, nor infringe on the rights of other students.

Conversely, the impact of gun violence upon our public institutions of learning has, and continues to, radically disrupt campus life, from lockdowns to the fatal consequences of active shooters, where the longer-term psychological toll on students is beyond quantifiable. In the Sacramento region alone, five schools have closed and/or enforced lockdowns in response to threats of gun violence since the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018. Indeed, the mass shooting at a Stockton elementary school in 1989 ushered in California's era of legislative action to reduce gun violence.

A full education fosters, promotes, and values civic participation. Student-led movements like this can have an impact not only on civic discourse, but also on the individual growth of each student that chooses to participate. We now witness the manifestation of these values through the incredible young adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Some California school districts have already voiced their support of their student body's participation on March 14, 2018. The President of University of California, the Chancellor of the California State University system, and the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges have all reassured current and prospective students that their participation on March 14 will not result in adverse consequences.

I ask you to join these leaders. The adults in charge of Congress have failed our children for long enough. Let's not fail them again by suppressing their voices at this critical juncture in history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GAVIN NEWSOM

Lieutenant Governor, University of California Regent, and California State University Trustee

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