



Allegany
Franciscan
Ministries

March 13, 2018

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

At its regular meeting today, the Allegany Franciscan Ministries board of directors approved a statement affirming the value of life and calling for:

- *A ban on civilian ownership of high-capacity, military-grade assault weapons, and bump stocks;*
- *Comprehensive background checks and mandatory waiting periods for all gun purchases;*
- *Legislation to make gun trafficking a federal crime.*

Every life is sacred; deaths and injuries from guns, especially to children, teenagers and innocent people are not acceptable. Allegany Franciscan Ministries calls for immediate and sustained action to enact common sense gun control laws.

We support the young people from Parkland Florida and across the country who have raised their voices to protest the inaction of elected officials in addressing gun violence. We look forward to supporting and joining students in the communities we serve in the March 24th *March for Our Lives* demonstration.

Please join us by sharing this message, and by contacting your Congressional leaders and the President of the United States to ask for effective and meaningful gun control.

We also ask you to join with us in prayer for the lives that have been lost, for an end to gun violence, and for the protection of human life.

Peace and All Good,

Eileen Coogan
President & CEO



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Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Corporate Statement on Gun Control
March 13, 2018

The board of directors and staff of Allegany Franciscan Ministries call upon Congress and all elected leaders to immediately take action to promote the safety, and protect the lives, of all children and adults by committing to:

- *A ban on civilian ownership of high-capacity, military-grade assault weapons, and bump stocks;*
- *Comprehensive background checks and mandatory waiting periods for all gun purchases;*
- *Legislation to make gun trafficking a federal crime.*

Every human being is created in the image of God, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Gun violence, along with other forms of violence, strikes at the life and dignity of all persons.

In light of the six school shootings so far this year that have either wounded or killed students, including the shooting murder of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, we call for immediate reasonable and common sense regulation of firearms.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries is rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, providing grants and working with community partners in three regions of Florida. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Allegany Franciscan Ministries has invested \$87.5 million to almost 1500 organizations serving those most in need in these communities. In addition to awarding grants, its staff and volunteers work collaboratively with community partners and other funders to create healthier, safer, and more connected communities where the most vulnerable residents can live, learn, work and play. A part of Trinity Health, its mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within communities served.

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