February 27, 2018

As the country reels from the recent tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida (one of 18 school shootings in 2018) we, Heads of Schools at independent schools throughout Vermont and Western Massachusetts, join the voices calling for swift and permanent legislative action to keep our students and*all students safe from gun violence*. Our students, teachers, staff, and their families should count on that as a right.

To that end, we vow to support and empower the students, parents, teachers, and staff members who have joined the nationwide movement calling for stricter gun laws. Moreover, we join them in their outrage.  The abject terror and grief that each of the recent shootings has caused, the loss of innocent lives, the levels of fear and frustration climbing in our own communities and in the country as a whole, cause us to boldly demand that our representatives take meaningful action to prevent further tragedies from occurring.

We call upon you to have the courage to step up and keep every single child, in every city, village and neighborhood school safe from being shot. We call upon you to be the moral compass by which we are able to continue to set the course for these children. We call upon you to take action toward stricter gun laws now.

With urgency,

Heads of School

Brian Bloomfield, Academy at Charlemont

Melissa Earls, Academy Hill School

Christopher Wilson, The Bement School

Isabel Spencer, The Center School

Christine Lindeman, The Common School

Nick Perry, The Grammar School

Tamara Mount, Hilltop Montessori School

John Friends and Heather Leeds, Full Circle School

Ellen Frank and Deborah Bromberg Seltzer, Lander Grinspoon Academy

Sue Wells, Pine Cobble School

Margaret Bagge, Pioneer Valley Montessori School

Sally Mixsell, Stoneleigh-Burnham School