

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President, Florida Senate

Dear President Albritton,

We, a coalition representing thousands of survivors, community leaders, and gun safety advocates across Florida and the nation, write with urgency and deep concern regarding House Bill 133 (HB 133). This bill would lower the minimum age to purchase rifles and long guns from 21 to 18, dismantling a critical protection enacted after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland — a protection that has saved lives and prevented tragedies.

In 2018, after a 19-year-old legally purchased an AR-15 and murdered 17 people in Parkland, Florida lawmakers from both parties came together to raise the minimum purchasing age. The purpose of that law was clear: to prevent teenagers from accessing weapons of war at the very ages when impulsivity, risk-taking, and suicide vulnerability are at their highest.

The evidence against lowering the purchase age is overwhelming. Public safety experts, medical professionals, and law enforcement officials all agree this bill would cost lives:

- Research shows 18-20-year-olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of older adults, with neuroscience confirming their brains are not fully developed—making them more prone to impulsivity and poor judgment.
- Young adults in this age group also face the highest rates of suicide attempts involving firearms. Expanding access to guns during this vulnerable developmental period will lead to more preventable deaths.
- Florida has already experienced gun violence by young adults in this age range even with this law in place, including the Florida State University shooting committed by a 20-year-old.
- The reality that not a single young person testified in support of HB 133 — only gun-lobby-aligned groups did.
- **80% of Florida voters oppose this dangerous rollback.**

The minimum age law works, and repealing it would put weapons of war back into the hands of teenagers.

President Albritton, we urge you to use your authority as Senate President to prevent HB 133 from becoming law. Remember the promises made after our state's darkest day. Remember those who buried their loved ones because a teenager could access a gun. Honor the bipartisan commitment lawmakers made in 2018: never again. Refuse to file a companion bill to HB 133, as you have done in previous years.

Florida's young people are watching. Survivors are watching. The country is watching.

Sincerely,

March For Our Lives
Newtown Action Alliance
Ban Assault Weapons NOW
Brady Florida
Brady Sarasota
Team ENOUGH
Community Safety Collective
Let Life Live, Inc
Florida National Organization for Women
League of Women Voters Florida
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus
STOP Moms for Liberty