



Dear students,

The members of Youth Voices In Action feel very deeply about the school shootings that have been taking place all over the country, we believe that the conversation needs to be directed in a different way than the media portrays the situation. Below is a statement we developed in solidarity with all students who fear going to school.

**We as students, want to be safe. But to us, safety in schools does not look like metal detectors, zero tolerance policies, or schools looking like prisons. We don't want students to be criminalized, because youth of color are most affected by over policing in schools. Safety to us looks like prevention, intervention, and support services.**

- **Prevention- Undoing racism trainings in schools. Mediation and calming practices being taught in schools as an alternative to ISS or suspension. Outside of schools, it looks like common sense gun reforms.**
- **Intervention- Schools that have good practices and policies for active shooter situations, including investing in things like door blockers, and fog machines that are meant to disassociate shooters, self defense and martial arts classes in schools, and especially ongoing conversations with youth.**
- **Support- counselors and social workers in school, that know how to deal with mental health crisis', peer support and mediation programs.**

**We want to see change. We want to be part of creating change. We NEED to be heard.**

Sincerely,

Youth Voices In Action

