Memorandum and Call to Action Regarding the Mass Shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida

On February 14, 2018, 17 students and faculty lost their lives and 14 others were seriously injured during a shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Alyssa Alhadeff, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Christopher Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, Scott Beigel, and Peter Wang all succumbed to this terrible act of violence.

The Student Government Association at the University of Texas at San Antonio would like to honor the first responders who put their lives on the line to prevent further injuries and casualties. We would like to pay tribute to those on the campus who sustained injuries and lost their lives so that others could live. Student Anthony Borges was hit by five bullets while slamming the door to his classroom to protect his classmates. Coach Aaron Feis died while shielding his students from bullets. JROTC Cadet Peter Wang died while holding a door open so his fellow classmates and faculty could run to safety. Teacher Scott Beigel died while allowing additional students to enter his classroom to escape the shooting. These acts of unselfish heroism among the many others are undoubtedly admirable. Many of these victims were children who did not get the opportunity to fully experience what life had to offer them. Many of these victims were teachers and coaches who committed their lives to mentor these children and prepare them for the world around them.

The Student Government Association at the University of Texas at San Antonio stands with the victims, the families, Parkland, Florida, and all who were affected by this unthinkable tragedy. In addition to sending our thoughts and condolences, we also implore the United States Government to address the rampant gun violence in our country, and to take the necessary actions so that never again will a horrid act of violence such as this take place. We ask that the proper steps be taken so that never again will children have to live in fear in a place where they should feel protected and where they should worry about nothing other than receiving a great education. Finally, we extend our utmost support to the survivors of this tragedy for having the commendable courage during this difficult time to stand up, speak up, and take action. We ask that the nation not forget, but
rather that we follow the lead of these survivors and take the measures to ensure that this catastrophe will be the last of its kind.

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