

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

City-specific media contacts listed below

**Two photos of billboards on trucks attached*

BILLBOARDS CREATED AS UNIQUE WAY TO SPREAD POWERFUL MESSAGES DURING ‘MARCH FOR OUR LIVES’



**TO GUN VIOLENCE,
WE CAN'T RESPOND
WITH SILENCE.**

– STUDENTS FROM WESTSIDE H.S., OMAHA, NE

PHOENIX, AZ, March 21, 2018 – Designed to look like the billboards featured in the movie *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, there will be multiple mobile billboards displaying student messages traveling around Washington, DC on March 23 and 24 for the March for Our Lives demonstration. The messages, intended to grab the attention of lawmakers, were written by students all around the country to show support for their DC counterparts.

The billboards were funded by personal donations from 21 nationally-known cartoonists. The cartoonist spearheading the effort reached out to the students, gathered the messages and created the billboard images. They thought it would be a unique way to provide visual strength for the giant student-led march, which has been organized by survivors of the high school shooting in Parkland, FL on Feb.14, 2018, that killed 17 people.

“Art, such as the billboards, can be an effective way to get a message across to politicians who sometimes don’t listen to facts alone,” said Jordan Harb, a 17-year-old high school student in the Phoenix, AZ area. “Art has the ability to elicit the feelings and fears we have every day and it can bring another perspective and a way of helping others understand the emotions we have when we are sitting in class wondering when the next round of thoughts and prayers may come for us.”

“We are extremely excited that we will have a billboard in DC, said Ariel Hobbs, a student in Houston, TX. “It is important to us that politicians know that this movement has reached all

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corners of this country and we will not be silent and let this issue fall by the wayside!”

There will be four mobile billboards roving the Capitol area - each billboard has two sides. The messages are:

- WHEN DID AMERICA BECOME A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS ARE SCARED TO GO TO SCHOOL? - Students of Colorado
- WE WANT A SHOT AT OUR FUTURE, NOT TO BE SHOT. - Students of Kentucky
- TO GUN VIOLENCE WE CAN'T RESPOND WITH SILENCE. - Students from Westside H.S., Omaha, NE
- WE WILL BE THE CHANGE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T BE. - Students of Houston
- GUN VIOLENCE KILLS 32 PEOPLE A DAY. NOT JUST A SCHOOL ISSUE, IT'S AN EPIDEMIC - Students from Phoenix, AZ
- I MARCH SO MY LITTLE SISTER WON'T HAVE TO. - Ohio State University
- 2nd AMMENDMENT: WRITTEN WHEN A BLACK PERSON COUNTED AS 3/5 OF A PERSON. THINGS CHANGE. - Students from Marist School, Atlanta, GA
- IF YOU VALUE GUNS MORE THAN LIVES WE DON'T DIFFER IN POLITICS, WE DIFFER IN MORALITY. - Students from Oregon

"When I heard about the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, I was again angered and distraught over the loss of so many young lives to gun violence and I wanted to make a big statement—a billboard,” said the nationally syndicated cartoonist who started the billboard effort. “The idea evolved—spurred by another cartoonist’s daughter and mine—to combine the voices of students from across the country while recalling the billboard images from the movie. With my cartoonist friends, we paid for the billboards to send their messages to the Capitol.”

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, is a movie about a grieving mother who, out of a belief that the small-town police force in her town had lost interest in solving the case of the rape and murder of her daughter, decides to post provocative messages including “STILL NO ARRESTS” on billboards with a red background and bold black lettering.

*You will find all the billboard art images here <http://bit.ly/2HNKn9p>. Feel free to download and use any you want.

Media Contacts:

PHOENIX: Jordan Harb phxmarch4ourlives@gmail.com, (480) 495-9944

ATLANTA: Lucy Luckovich LucyLuckovich19@marist.com, (404) 632-2424

PORTLAND: Susan B. Castner MarchForOurLivesPDX@gmail.com, (503) 502-3419

COLUMBUS: Erick Bellomy erickbellomyjr@icloud.com, (614) 360-8335

KENTUCKY: Rachel Belin rbelin@prichardcommittee.org (859) 396-6362

DENVER: Evan Davis edavis618@gmail.com, (303) 681-6523

OMAHA: Jack Pekula, pantspower4499@gmail.com (402) 343-2600

Matt Pekula (402) 706-5750

Jeremy Stoll (402) 343-2641

HOUSTON:

Ariel Hobbs marchforourliveshouston@gmail.com, (832) 425-0407

Marcel McClinton mfolhoustonpress@gmail.com (281) 925-9148

Madie Lake marchforourliveshouston, (936) 443-3875

Kelly Choi marchforourliveshouston@gmail.com, (832) 775-3635

NATIONAL:

Sue Breeding, Suebreeding@gmail.com, (480) 385-8467

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