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Subject: **Semiautomatic weapons points**

Hello Presidents and Gun Safety Chairs,

As you all know, this past Wednesday our state and community were ravaged once again by a mass shooting. This time was Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, FL. The death toll stands at 17, with 15 more wounded.

The time for thoughts and prayers has long passed. Time and time again these tragedies are met with thoughts, prayers, and then inaction from lawmakers. Below are talking points which may be used in letters to the editor, letters to our elected officials, and more:

- Semiautomatic assault weapons — like the AR-15 used at the mass shooting in Parkland — are weapons of war and do not belong in the hands of civilians.
- These weapons have been used again and again to kill large numbers of people with ease. The list of cities continues to grow, from Aurora, CO; Newtown, CT; San Bernardino, CA; Orlando, FL; Sutherland Springs, TX; Las Vegas, NV; and now Parkland, FL.
- For the past two legislative sessions, the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and the League of Women Voters of Florida have proposed a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Neither of those bills were heard in committee in the past two years.
- **Senate Bill 196** by Sen. **Linda Stewart** is currently sitting in Chairman Senator **Greg Steube's** Senate Judiciary Committee. We call on Sen. Steube to place **SB 196** on the agenda for the committee's next scheduled committee hearing on February 20th, 2018.
- Beyond that, we continue to call on our representatives to request that the Legislature hear **Senate Bill 196** and **House Bill 219** by Rep. **Carlos Guillermo Smith**, which would ban semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines in Florida. We have 3 weeks left in this legislative session. The time is now for our lawmakers to act to protect the citizens and visitors of our state.

[Here is the link to the Facebook event](#) for our press conference next week in Tallahassee at the Capitol. It will be on the West side of the Capitol, facing the Florida Supreme Court. We encourage all interested members to attend if they are able. Please share!

In League,

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.