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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2018

Ms. Paula Undda's Class
7th and 8th Grade Students
Emiliano Zapata Academy
2728 S Kostner Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60623

Dear Students,

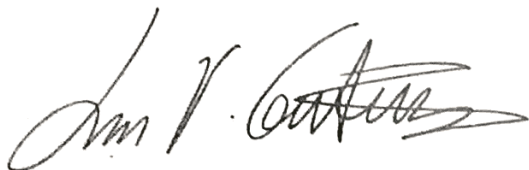
Thank you for all your letters, poems, and stories on gun violence in Chicago and across the country. I always appreciate constituents of all ages taking the time to write me about important issues like this one.

The issue of gun violence in the United States is one of great importance; and sadly, not enough is currently being done to fight this epidemic. I believe it is more important than ever to take concrete steps to prevent gun violence—without any further delay. From the streets of Chicago, to Columbine, to Newtown, lives have been lost to gun violence. The safety of our communities is at stake when we sit idle and allow this senseless violence to continue. Since my earliest days as a Member of Congress I have been an advocate for reasonable gun control laws. The very first bill that I introduced as a new Member of Congress in 1993 was legislation to ban assault weapons.

Our youth in America should feel safe in schools. This feeling of safety should extend to movie theatres, nightclubs, malls and any other public space in the country. While the National Rifle Association (NRA) has a lot of money in our politics, no one can take away your right to vote. When you all turn 18 years old, register to vote and make your voices heard. Hold your elected officials accountable and demand a change. I encourage all of you to continue to be active members of your community, and writing to me is a great start in civic engagement. I wish you all the best of luck and all the success in the world.

Please know that I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues to implement common-sense gun safety measures—measures that would make a definitive difference in the lives of thousands of people. Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress