

# *U.S. students hold walkouts to protest gun violence*

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Washington, Feb 22 (RHC)-- Students across the United States -- from Minnesota to Colorado to Arizona -- walked out of classes Wednesday to demand stricter gun laws. They carried signs reading "Make us safe" and "Bring on the politicians! We will rise!"

Outside the White House, hundreds of students from Washington, D.C.-area high schools rallied and staged a sit-in protest.

In Florida, survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre descended on the state Capitol in Tallahassee Wednesday, demanding lawmakers address gun violence before the legislative session ends in two weeks.

The students' lobbying efforts came a day after Florida lawmakers rejected an open debate on whether to ban large-capacity magazines and semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 used by the shooter, a former student named Nikolas Cruz.

Inside the White House, President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos hosted a "listening session" with students and families affected by school shootings.

President Trump proposed ending "gun-free zones" at schools, and called for teachers to be armed with

concealed handguns.

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