

Ladies and gentlemen,

I'm here today because I cannot be silent any longer. My heart is heavy as I recall the memories of my younger brother, Michael. Michael was a vibrant soul, full of dreams and hopes. But his life was tragically cut short due to gun violence.

One summer evening, while playing at the park--a place where laughter should echo--he was caught in the crossfire of a senseless dispute. I remember the phone call, the disbelief, the gut-wrenching moment when I realized he would never come home again. That, once more, our family dinners would have an empty chair.

We hear about the statistics every day: numbers and percentages. But behind each number is a face, a family, a community forever altered. I stand here today not just for Michael, but for the countless others like him who haven't had the chance to grow up, to chase their dreams, to live.

We talk about rights, but what about the right to feel safe in our schools, our parks, our homes? What about the right to watch our children grow up in a world where shooting isn't a risk on a walk to the grocery store?

Gun control isn't about taking away rights; it's about creating a future where families don't have to endure the pain that mine has. It's about responsibility, safety, and life. We need laws that protect our communities from unnecessary violence, laws that prioritize our loved ones' lives over anything else.

We owe it to Michael and to every other victim of gun violence to speak out, to demand change, and to act. Together, we can forge a world where such tragedies become rare, rather than routine.

Let's make this the generation that says "enough is enough." Thank you.