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Statement of Gloria Allred

Today I am here with Roxanne Deschampes. Roxanne was the next door neighbor and close friend to Lynda Cruz. Ms. Cruz was the mother of the Parkland School shooter, Nikolas Cruz and his brother Zackary Cruz.

Roxanne has decided to speak out today in order to help provide answers to some of the many questions that families of victims who were killed and surviving victims may have about why this tragedy may have happened and if it could have been prevented.

Roxanne reached out to me because she is concerned that there were many false statements made about her and she wanted to share her truth about what really happened.

Since she was the best friend and next door neighbor of Lynda Cruz, the mother of Nikolas Cruz and Zackary she has important knowledge of what happened in Nikolas' home as well as in her home when Nikolas lived there after his mother's death.

Roxanne feels that the system failed the victims of the Parkland tragedy, even though she did everything that she could do to prevent it.

She is a mother of three children. Like all parents she wants all schools to be safe places, not only for her children, but for everyone else's children as well.

In my opinion, Roxanne is a hero for her efforts to try and prevent what happened. She told everything that she knew about Nikolas and guns and his mental health issues each and every time the police came after 911 calls from her home.

Nevertheless, law enforcement indicated to her that they could do nothing despite the warning signs that Roxanne shared with them.

Her heart is broken for all of those who have suffered. She fully supports the marchers who will go to Washington on Saturday to make their voices heard in favor of safer schools and gun control measures that could truly make a difference in protecting the lives of children.

As we speak out today, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are also with the victims of the school shooting in Great Mills, Maryland, which took place this morning. This terrible tragedy only deepens our resolve and commitment to change and our support for those who will march on Saturday.

Although many efforts to win change have taken place in the past, she believes this time the voices of young people and their commitment to change can and must make a difference.

We need more parents like Roxanne who did everything within their power to be alert for warning signs and make every effort to stop gun violence. Even if the efforts are ultimately unsuccessful we must never stop taking steps to make our children safe.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Roxanne Deschamps