

KATY TUR: Joining me are two students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, John Barnitt and Tanzil Philip. He attended a meeting with Florida governor Rick Scott yesterday. Gentlemen, thank you very much for being here and I'm sorry for your loss. I want to play a little bit of sound from Donald Trump, from the president a few moments ago where he talks about what he thinks are the problems and what he thinks are the solutions. Listen.

[VIDEO CLIP] DONALD TRUMP: We want to ensure that while we see warning signs, we act quickly. I'm hearing more and more people say the level of violence in video games is really shaping young people's thoughts. And then movies. We have to harden our schools. A gun-free zone to a killer, that's like going in for the ice cream. That's like, 'here I am, take me.' These people are cowards. They're not going to walk into a school if 20% of the teachers have guns. Maybe 10% or maybe 40%. What I would recommend doing is people that do carry, we give them a bonus. I'm the biggest believer of the Second Amendment that there is. I am the biggest. But I tell you what, I spoke with the NRA at the top, people. And they gave me tremendous support. I spoke to them, and they're ready to do things. They want to do things. They're good people. They're patriots. They love this country. But the NRA is ready to do things. People like to blame them, and they do have power and all of that, but they want to do things. [END CLIP]

TUR: John, when you hear that from the president, what is your reaction? What do you think?

JOHN BARNITT: First off what he's talking about video games and how it's shaping the youths' minds, we can't go blaming mass shootings on a video game. That's just for fun. To make that comparison through playing a game, through real-life action, that's just despicable because the root of the problem is the gun, mental health, stricter background checks. When he's talking about how the NRA, it's not their fault, it really is because they are the ones that are bringing the donations to our legislators, or persuading their minds with something more valuable to them than children and the youth and citizens of the United States' lives.

TUR: You've been outspoken about the NRA. The NRA represented yesterday at that town hall that CNN held with Dana Loesch, and there were also a couple speaking moments this morning at CPAC with Wayne LaPierre where they talked about what the problem is. And they said the problem is not guns, the problem is not law-abiding gun owners. The problem is the media, Democrats. They're the ones that are trying to take these rights away from you. They're the ones who are making you more unsafe. When you saw that, did you agree with what they were saying or did you have another opinion?

TANZIL PHILIP: What Dana said this morning was completely incorrect. We do not feel that way at all. The NRA and Republican lawmakers want to protect our Second Amendment rights, but I guess they don't care about the First Amendment. There are countless video games that show violence. The difference between the other countries and us is they have stricter gun policies.

BARNITT: With the NRA, we are not taking -- our movement, our ideas, our opinions, we're not -- our idea is not to take away the second amendment. We are more than happy for people to hold, have, and carry handbags in their homes. But when we're talking about an AR-15 that's a weapon of mass destruction, military grade, when can you use that? For self-defense? We don't need a 200-round gun shooting through a predator that's in your house.

PHILIP: No 18-year-old should have a gun like that. I understand people want guns for safety, but when would you need a gun that shoots 200 rounds for safety?

TUR: Is it for you an issue of age? Should they raise the age limit? Or, for you guys is it an issue of getting assault weapons off the streets?

BARNITT: Maybe the age definitely we should raise the age because for it to be 18, that's just ridiculous because you can't even buy alcohol. However, when you have a sick mind, and you're mentally ill, it doesn't matter if you're 18 or 54, you're still going to have a mentally ill mind, and you're not going to have the right mindset to have and carry a gun. Yes, it would help because most school shootings, the average age is 18 to 30. So, yes, that will help, but it's not going to eliminate the problem, which we're trying to do.

PHILIP: Like you said, you call them what they are, assault weapons. Why do we need assault weapons around children, around schools? Those weapons are for the military, for people fighting wars. We don't need them in our own backyard or anyone to have them. We're not here to take away your guns or get rid of the second amendment. We're just here to -- we want our lives, we want to grow up. We want to be able to make changes in the world, and that's what we're here to do. A lot of people are getting this wrong and thinking we're against the Second Amendment, we're not against the second amendment. We're not against the amendments at all. We're not trying to take away all guns. We're using our first amendment.

TUR: Let me play Wayne LaPierre from the CPAC gathering this morning.

[VIDEO CLIP] WAYNE LAPIERRE AT CPAC: ... opportunist, wasted not one second to exploit tragedy for political gain. Saul Alinsky would have been proud. The breakback speed of calls for more gun control laws, and the breathless national media eager to smear them. [END CLIP]

TUR: Do feel like you've been exploited for political gain?

PHILIP: No. The Republicans and Democrats, it doesn't matter what party you're affiliated with. We want change to happen. We don't want to sit around and let this happen to another school. Our message is never again and we don't want this to happen anywhere.

TUR: Yesterday the president sat down and listened to some of your classmates and other parents who have lost their kids, not only shooting at your school, but other shootings in the past. He had a notepad that had a number of questions listed on it. Just a reminder, "I hear you." He listened yesterday. Today he also reaffirmed his support for the NRA? Do you think he can have it both ways? Is it possible to support the NRA and the message the NRA is putting forth as you saw just a moment ago, and support you guys and support those who've been the victim of gun violence?

PHILIP: I would just like to say before John speaks is that President Donald Trump did not invite any of us at the never again movement there. We're wondering why if he could respond to us why didn't he invite us? We're the ones who are talking about it.

BARNITT: And also, going off the fact that you said President Trump said I hear you to the students and he's also supporting the NRA, yes, there is some commonality in what we both agree with, which is stricter background checks, which is no one that has mental illness should be carrying a weapon. We understand that and those are our values too as well as the NRA. They agree with that. However, the main issue that we're having, if he's saying 'I hear you', the message we have that you should hear is that no one should have a weapon of mass destruction for a sport or for protecting their home because if we were going to have an ar-15 for sport, it would obliterate the meat. You could have 200 rounds off one clip. That's not what a sport gun should be.

TUR: Let me remind everyone where the NRA stands on mental health and guns. There's something called a gun violence protective order laws, also known as gun violence restraining orders. They're for those who pose an extreme risk for others. They allow families and household members as well as law enforcement officers to petition a court to remove a person's access to guns if he or she poses an imminent danger to self or others. This person, obviously, that went into your school, flags had been raised about him. The authorities were alerted about him multiple times. The NRA is now blaming the FBI and law enforcement for not doing anything about it. But at the same time, the NRA does not support a gun violence restraining order. The one I just read, the NRA doesn't support it. You just said they support not letting those with mental health issues have a gun, but seems to go against what they do support. What do you think?

PHILIP: The NRA is contradicting themselves. It's not hidden that law enforcement and the fbi, they should have worked together with the schools. The things we talked about yesterday in Tallahassee is, I am all for my juvenile records to be out there if it saves lives. If it saves those 17 lives. Because once you're 18, if you're juvenile records are sealed, what do you have on your record? He was 19 years old, I believe. So he had one year of things on his record.

[Interview interrupted by White House briefing.]