

**Perspectives from Students on the Impact of Active Shooter Drills and Other School Security Measures: A Listening Session Series**  
*Speaker Biographical Sketches*

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**Anja K. Herrman** *Student Researcher, Disability Rights Advocate*

Anja K. Herrman is a researcher and disability rights advocate. She was the principal investigator and lead author on a national study on the erasure of disabled students from K-12 school shooting responses. Additionally, she is a member of the research team for the Behavioral Health Stratified Treatment (BEST) Project, which looks at the relationships between disabled teens and mental health care, at the University of Illinois- Chicago. Her research and advocacy efforts led to her recognition as a 2023 “Girl Leading Change” by the Biden-Harris Administration & White House Gender Policy Council. She is a freshman undergraduate student at American University, studying public policy.

**Isabel Mavrides-Calderon** *White House Youth Policy Team*

Isabel Mavrides-Calderon is a Latina disability justice activist and organizer. Her work focuses on advocating for policy change, accessibility, and anti-ableism. She has hosted numerous campaigns and protests for disability rights bills with the ACLU, Patients Rising and the Center for Disability Rights. Isabel was one of the leaders of a successful campaign to take down CVS vs DOE, a Supreme Court case that threatened to gut the Americans with Disabilities Act. She has also worked as an accessibility consultant for various think tanks and protests, such as the Australian National Climate Strike. In addition to organizing, Isabel advocates for the disabled community as a public speaker. She has given guest lectures in universities across the country and has spoken at numerous conferences and on news platforms such as NBC. She is currently hosting a series with the ACLU called “Educating for Access” where she breaks down disability history and current events issues. Isabel was named one of Teen Vogue’s 21 Under 21 Revolutionary Youth for her advocacy work. Currently, she is working with Disability Rights International, an organization that is working towards ending institutionalization and ensuring the safety and rights of disabled people in war-torn countries, such as Ukraine.

**Zaria Naqvi** *Student, Member of the MD Advisory Board*

As a Winston Churchill High School junior in Montgomery County, Maryland, Zaria Naqvi is passionately dedicated to advocating for school safety and combating gun violence. Since 2023, she has been actively involved with the Maryland Center for School Safety, currently serving as the Student Member of its Advisory Board. Zaria’s advocacy efforts have included participating as a student panelist in a U.S. Department of Education and National Center for School Safety webinar, where she shared valuable insights on effective safety measures. Additionally, she has organized multiple town halls, providing platforms for students to express their concerns about school safety, particularly regarding gun violence. In her role at the Maryland Center for School Safety, Zaria reports on student perspectives regarding safety initiatives. She also chairs the Student Advocates for School Safety focus group in Maryland, collaborating with peers statewide to develop actionable strategies for enhancing school safety, including the establishment of safety clubs at various schools. Through her commitment and initiatives, Zaria aims to create a safer learning environment for all students while contributing to meaningful conversations around gun violence prevention and school safety measures.

**Marissa (Apollo) Rodriguez** *FEMA National YPC Council Member*

Apollo Rodriguez is currently serving as the Region 1 Representative on FEMA's National YPC where they focus on promoting equity and access in preparedness. They are a Criminal Justice & Protective Services student at Vinal Technical High School. In addition to their regular school activities, they serve as the designated Incident Commander for their class as part of the school's Emergency Operations Center. Apollo is passionate about fostering other students' interest in emergency management and supporting them in their pursuits. In their free time, they enjoy volunteering as a victim actor for local first responder training sessions focused on mass casualty events. These experiences enhance their understanding of critical issues in emergency response. As a student and EMT in training, they gain valuable insights from two perspectives: that of a future first responder, and that of a potential victim, given the sharp rise in school shootings. Through these experiences, they hope to make a positive impact on their community and contribute to a safer nation.

**Frederick Walton** *Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Advisory Board*

Frederick has been serving actively for the past year as a part of his school's SAVE Promise Club. This is his first year on the National Youth Advisory Board and he couldn't be more driven. Frederick's determination to create positive change stems from his desire to bring a sense of safety and security to all students. During *Start With Hello* Week, Frederick prioritized a lunch event where everyone sat with someone new — building a socially inclusive environment where everyone can connect with one another. With an alarming rate of gun violence in his area, Frederick plans to contribute ideas and solutions to put an end to this violence and be a voice that speaks up and supports his school and community. Mr. Barksdale, Frederick's advisor shares "*Frederick comes from a diverse background and has a heart for his community. He can provide a unique perspective as his actions lift our community up, making us better leaders of tomorrow.*" Frederick is also an active member of the Future Leaders Program, a neighboring school's football team, and the lacrosse club team.