

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

## Deafening Silence

- **Robert F. Lyons, Kennebunkport, Maine**
- **Feb 26, 2018**

The entire South Dakota congressional delegation is well supported by funding from the National Rifle Association: Rep. Kristi Noem: \$7,769; Sen. Mike Rounds: \$89,433; Sen. John Thune: \$632,486 for a total of \$729,688. (Source: New York Times, Feb. 21).

There were 17 people killed at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last week in Florida by an assault rifle. That amounts to an NRA cost of \$42,923 per dead student.

Sen. Thune commented after the Oct. 1, 2017 massacre in Las Vegas where 59 were killed and 527 were injured: “I think people are going to have to take steps in their own lives to take precautions ... To protect themselves. And in situations like that, you know, try to stay safe. As somebody said — get small.”

Does the senator have any new recommendations?

“Everybody feels the evil, but no one has courage or energy enough to seek the cure.” (de Tocqueville).

The silence from my native state is deafening.