

NEW JERSEY

A Message from New Jersey State Board Student Representative: Sahil Ganatra

By Sahil Ganatra

To New Jersey's class of 2020:

This is not how any of us imagined the end of our last year to pan out. We were forced to say goodbye to our friends and our teachers. We were forced to leave our schools, unaware that we would never return as students. We were forced to cut short what was supposed to be the best year of our lives.

Right now, it seems as if we are standing by and watching everything around us fall apart. We are unable to control much of anything in our lives, but despite everything, we certainly are not alone. Around the nation, the Class of 2020 is mourning the loss of their senior year along with us. Our feelings are valid, and they matter. But we are strong, and we have shown that in the past two months.

In all my time as a student in New Jersey, I have never been prouder and more inspired by my classmates and my community. As opposed to dividing us, this pandemic has brought us closer together than ever before. The Class of 2020 has risen to these seemingly insurmountable odds and we have shown the world what we are made of. Throughout this great state, the senior class has stood alongside our healthcare workers, gone out of our way to lift our peers up, and advocated for those especially in need during this difficult time. If our response to this pandemic is any indication as to what our future holds, I am 100% confident that we will tackle whatever life throws at us.

We were born in the aftermath of 9/11, and we begin our lives as young adults amidst a global pandemic. The world has thrown us nothing but curveballs, and yet every single time, we have found a way to knock it out of the park. I'm starting to think that the world doesn't know who it's dealing with. And so, to the world I say: we are the Class of 2020. Watch us.

