

ProtestEasyGuns.com
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

For News Media Planning Purposes
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**ON A FATEFUL ANNIVERSARY,
A DEMONSTRATION IN AMHERST
TO URGE COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS**

Amherst, MA – On Wednesday, April 16, the anniversary of the terrible tragedy that took 32 innocent lives at Virginia Tech University, local citizens at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst will join more than 70 cities and towns across America in events to remember that tragedy – as well as all victims and survivors of gun violence – and call on Congress to act to strengthen the Brady background check system by closing the gun show loophole.

The UMass demonstration will be a “lie-in” where mothers and fathers, young and old, gun violence victims, college students and other citizens lie down in groups of 32 to recall the 32 innocent victims murdered at Virginia Tech. They’ll remain lying for just a few short minutes to highlight the short length of time it takes to purchase a gun in the United States.

Abigail Spangler, founder of ProtestEasyGuns.com, started these “lie-in” protests following the Virginia Tech tragedy last year, and has dubbed April 16 as National Lie-In Day. “We refuse to accept that nothing can be done,” Spangler said. “We’ll keep making our voices heard until we pass laws that make our children and our communities safer.”

“The American people know that it’s too easy for dangerous people to obtain dangerous weapons,” said Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a cosponsor of the April 16 national activities. “As we remember gun violence victims on April 16, we should urge Congress to close the gun show loophole immediately, and take other common sense steps to fight gun violence.”

“It’s unfortunate that the Virginia Tech massacre had to occur for people to realize that something needs to be done,” said Maha Mudawar, primary organizer of today’s demonstration in Amherst. “It’s a scary thought that guns are so easily accessible. It worries me to think that this could happen on our own college campus.”

The details on next Wednesday’s demonstration:

WHAT: “Lie-In” To Urge Congress to Close
The Gun Show Loophole

And For More Common Sense Federal and State Gun Laws

WHEN: 1:10pm
Wednesday, April 16, 2008

WHERE: Steps of the Student Union
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

ProtestEasyGuns.com is a grassroots lie-in protest movement that emerged last year in response to the deadliest shooting rampage by a single individual in U.S. history at Virginia Tech. Supporters are outraged at how easy it is to obtain a gun in the United States and believe it is time to change lax U.S. gun laws that allow criminals and dangerous individuals easy access to guns. Each of the protests includes 32 individuals (symbolizing the number of students and teachers murdered at Virginia Tech and the 32 Americans murdered with guns every day in the United States). Protesters lie down silently for three minutes (signifying the brief amount of time it takes to buy a gun in the United States). The goal is to encourage like-minded citizens to stage their own protests around the country to influence the public discourse and ultimately the legislative process with regard to this critical national problem. Visit www.protesteasyguns.com

As the nation's largest, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence, the Brady Campaign, with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, works to enact and enforce sensible gun laws, regulations, and public policies. The Brady Campaign is devoted to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities.

For more information on April 16th activities, visit the Brady Campaign website at www.bradycampaign.org.

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