

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

For News Media Planning Purposes  
Thursday, April 10, 2008  
Contact: Jesse Matton at 703-402-0768  
Or Brady Campaign Communications at 202-898-0792

*Media Advisory\*\*\*Media Advisory\*\*\*Media Advisory*

**ON A FATEFUL ANNIVERSARY,  
A DEMONSTRATION IN KNOXVILLE  
TO URGE COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS**

**Knoxville, TN** – On Wednesday, April 16, the anniversary of the terrible tragedy that took 32 innocent lives at Virginia Tech University, local citizens in Knoxville 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.

Knoxville’s demonstration will 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.”

“I just really want for people to remember what happened that day, how it can affected the world and how something like that should never be able to happen again,” said Jesse Matton, the primary organizer of today’s demonstration in Knoxville. “Loosing a close friend to something so terrible and that could have possibly been prevented, makes me want to fight for change on the lax gun laws around the country.”

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:** 12:00-1:00  
Wednesday, April 16, 2008
- WHERE:** Pedestrian Walkway (off of Andy Holt Avenue next to the library)  
University of Tennessee Campus  
Knoxville, Tennessee

*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.protesteasycguns.com](http://www.protesteasycguns.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](http://www.bradycampaign.org).*

###