

**VIRGINIA CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ProtestEasyGuns.com AND
HAMPTON ROADS MILLION MOM MARCH CHAPTER OF THE BRADY CAMPAIGN**

For News Media Planning Purposes

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*Media Advisory***Media Advisory***Media Advisory*

A DATE TO REMEMBER VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Norfolk, Virginia – On Wednesday, April 16, the first anniversary of the terrible tragedy that took 32 innocent lives at Virginia Tech, local citizens in Norfolk 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 legislators to move forward with common sense gun laws such as closing the gun show loophole.

The demonstration will be a “lie-in” where citizens will lie down to recall the 32 victims of the Virginian Tech shootings – the deadliest massacre in our nation’s history. They will remain lying for a few short minutes to highlight the brief length of time it takes to purchase a gun in Virginia and the United States.

Abigail Spangler founder of ProtestEasyGuns.com started these “lie-in” protests following the Virginia Tech tragedy last year, and calls April 16 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.”

“Easy access to guns has made our neighborhoods, our schools and our homes less safe. It’s time for us to take a stand against lax gun policies for the future of our young people and our communities,” said Barbara King Hart, one of the organizers of the demonstration in Norfolk. “We are not naive. We realize preventing gun violence is complex but we need better tools to address the problem of easy access to firearms by those who are violent, domestic abusers, mentally deranged, terrorists or too young to exercise proper judgment”

The details on Wednesday’s demonstration:

- WHAT:** “Lie-In” To Remember Victims of Gun Violence and Urge Legislators to Close the Gun Show Loophole and To Support Common Sense State and Federal Gun Laws
- WHERE:** YWCA, 5215 Colley Avenue, Norfolk
- WHEN:** Gathering 11:30 a.m./lie in at noon

The Virginia Center for Public Safety (formerly known as Virginians Against Handgun Violence) is a statewide organization that was founded in 1992 after a young person was shot outside a school in Hampton Roads. The organization seeks to create a safer Virginia through education, public forums, youth outreach, and work in the public policy arena. VACPS believes that a chief cause of gun violence is the easy access that criminals and youth have to guns in the state. Visit VACPS on the web at www.vacps.org.

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 to Prevent Gun Violence, working with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, 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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