

**North Carolinians Against Gun Violence Education Fund  
Forsyth Mothers and Others Million Mom March Chapter of the Brady Campaign  
In Partnership With ProtestEasyGuns.com and  
Winston Salem State University (Simon Green Atkins Community Development Corp)**

For News Media Planning Purposes

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## **ON A FATEFUL ANNIVERSARY, "LIE IN" IN WINSTON-SALEM TO REMEMBER THE VICTIMS OF VIRGINIA TECH**

**Winston-Salem, NC** – On Wednesday, April 16, the first anniversary of the terrible tragedy that took 32 innocent lives at Virginia Tech, local citizens in Winston-Salem 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.

The Winston-Salem demonstration at Winston Salem State University will be a “lie-in” where college students, mothers and fathers, young and old, gun violence victims, and other citizens will 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 also act to take common sense steps to fight gun violence.”

“There are far too many victims of gun violence in America,” said Gail McNeil, President of the Forsyth Mothers and Others Million Mom March Chapter, an organizer of today’s demonstration at Winston Salem State University. “It is important to take a moment and remember the more than 100,000 people in America who are killed or injured by guns every year.”

The details on next Wednesday’s demonstration:

**WHAT:** “Lie-In” To Remember Victims of Gun Violence on the Anniversary of the Virginia Tech Tragedy

**WHEN:** 10:30 AM  
Wednesday, April 16, 2008

**WHERE:** Clock Tower, Winston Salem State University  
Winston Salem, North Carolina

**SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:**

Joycelyn Johnson, Winston-Salem City Council  
Algernon Cash  
Busta Brown, 97.1 WQMB

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

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