

## **BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

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### **BRADY'S 2010 TEXAS STATE SCORECARD: GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES HELP KEEP TEXAS FROM ADOPTING EVEN WORSE GUN LAWS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Texas ended 2010 the way it did so many years before, with one of the lowest rankings possible on the Brady Campaign's State Scorecard: a mere six points.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Lone Star state does nothing to curb illegal gun tracking, nothing to stop criminals from getting guns from unlicensed sellers who don't require background checks, and nothing to ban assault clips. In the organization's 2010 State Scorecards released today for all 50 states, Texas received just 6 points out of a total of 100.

Texas earned its few points in 2010 by keeping guns out of work places and off college campuses. Texas also received credit for a law to hold adults responsible for keeping loaded guns away from minors.

Texas has been Ground Zero in the United States this year in the battle to keep guns off college campuses. Gun violence prevention advocates from across the state, including the Texas Brady Campaign Chapters and Students for Gun Free Schools, have helped to rally concerned Texans to fight legislation to force guns onto college campuses through earned media, phone calls and e-mails to legislators and lobby visits over the last four months. Texas university presidents, faculty, and students made their voices heard as well. The Texas “guns on campus” bill, SB 354, was slated for a full Senate vote on April 7, but is now stalled due to enormous pressure from gun violence prevention advocates, students, parents, faculty, university officials, gun violence survivors, concerned citizens, and law enforcement.

“Everyone told us that this session ‘guns on campus’ legislation was a slam dunk - but we have worked hard and remain hopeful,” said Marsha McCartney, spokesperson for the Texas Chapters of the Brady Campaign, who has testified before the legislature, spoken and written to the media during practically every turn of the battle, and helped rally supporters. “We know that the majority of Texans agree with us that guns do not have a

place on our university and college campuses. So we will continue to work to prevent these bills from becoming law.”

John Woods, whose girlfriend was murdered in the Virginia Tech massacre, has been instrumental in spearheading the campaign to fight the “guns on campus” legislation. He has given up nights and weekends and months of sleep to keep guns off Texas college campuses. He helped arrange a three-day visit to the state by Colin Goddard, a Brady staffer who survived being shot four times at Virginia Tech, and is now the subject of two documentaries. Additionally, Woods helped to coordinate screenings of Goddard's documentary, *Living for 32*, at two colleges and at the state capitol. He also has testified at hearings and kept students informed as the bills have made their way through the legislature.

“This legislation was not about campus safety, but rather a radical ideological agenda. I hope that we can now begin to have an honest dialogue about campus safety, a topic which has been utterly ignored over the last two sessions,” said Woods, founder of Students For Gun Free Schools in Texas.

Woods and McCartney and many supporters across the state have not shied away from doing battle with Texas lawmakers, and their tenacity has kept all the “guns on campus” bills from becoming law during the 2011 legislative session so far.

Because of the hard work of the Brady Campaign and its allies, “guns on campus” legislation has been defeated 51 times in 27 states since Virginia Tech.

“Gun violence directly touches nearly 100,000 Americans each year. It happens because it's too easy now for dangerous people to get guns and to legally carry them in all sorts of public places,” said Brady President Paul Helmke. “Texas officials should be doing more to keep dangerous people from getting dangerous weapons. We applaud our advocates for their courage and determination, and will support every effort to defeat legislation to push guns into sensitive places.”

The Brady Campaign also announced new features to its annual release of scores this year, including four “Craziest Gun Laws” awards, and a “Test Your Gun Law IQ” quiz, which can be accessed and taken online, as well as on Brady's Facebook page. A sample question: “Which two states had no youth gun deaths in 2007 (the latest year available)?”

The 2010 Brady Campaign State Scorecard can be accessed online here, and is explained by category as follows:

- States can earn up to 35 points by taking steps needed to “Curb Firearms Trafficking.” States can fully regulate gun dealers within their borders, limit bulk purchases of handguns, record gun sale records and provide police certain

technology to identify crime guns, and require lost or stolen guns to be reported to the police.

- States can earn up to 40 points by “Strengthening Brady Background Checks.” This involves requiring universal background checks and requiring a comprehensive permit in order to purchase firearms. Short of universal background checks, states also can close the gun show loophole, at least requiring background checks for all gun show sales and the regulation of handgun ammunition purchases.
- States can earn up to 10 points by “Banning Military-style Assault Weapons,” as well as banning deadly assault clips like the one used by the Tucson shooter.
- States can earn up to 7 points by “Protecting Child Safety” when it comes to guns. States can require that only childproof handguns be sold within their borders, require child safety locks be sold with each weapon and hold adults accountable for keeping guns away from kids and teens.
- States can earn up to eight points by restricting most “Guns In Public Places” to trained law enforcement and security and “Preserve Local Control” over municipal gun laws. This includes keeping guns out of workplaces and college campuses, not forcing law enforcement to issue concealed handgun permits on demand and allowing local municipalities to pass their own gun laws.

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*Brady Campaign officials acknowledge the research of Legal Community Against Violence on state gun laws. Their publication, “Regulating Guns in America,” and website served as a basis for this analysis. For more information about Legal Community Against Violence, see <http://www.lcav.org/>.*

*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 continuing insight and comment on the gun issue, read Paul Helmke's blog at [www.bradycampaign.org/blog/](http://www.bradycampaign.org/blog/). Visit the Brady Campaign website at [www.bradycampaign.org](http://www.bradycampaign.org).*