# NEW YORKERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Working to Reduce Gun-Related Violence Since 1993

For Immediate Release

April 25, 2007

## Advocates Gather in Albany for
## Eleventh Annual Rally for Sensible Gun Laws.
## Praise Assembly for Passing a Package of Nine Gun Violence Prevention Bills and Call on State Senate to Pass at Least Two Bills Aimed at Reducing the Flood of Illegal Guns in New York State

**Albany, New York**, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV), New York's leading state-wide grassroots gun violence prevention organization held their Eleventh Annual Sensible Gun Legislation Day on April 25, 2007. Advocates/youth/gun violence victims and survivors were joined at the rally by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Minority Leader Senator Malcolm Smith, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Assemblyman David Koon, Senator Joseph Robach, and other State lawmakers.

Jackie Kuhls, Executive Director of NYAGV said "Today the Assembly takes action on nine gun violence prevention bills. NYAGV praises their proactive approach and calls on the Senate to act by passing at least two measures that will take illegal guns off of our streets and save lives".

Kuhls continued, "Each year, one thousand New York State residents die from gun shot wounds and hundreds more are maimed. Law enforcement officers are on the front lines and are particularly at risk every day from the many illegal guns that flood New York's streets. The tragic shooting spree at Virginia Tech is a reminder that we can and must do more to keep guns out of prohibited hands".

The gun dealer bill defines responsible business practices for gun dealers and will allow the state to identify and prosecute rogue or sloppy gun dealers who supply our streets with illegal guns. Almost 60% of crime guns originate with just 1% of gun dealers. According to ATF data, between 60% and 75% of crime guns used in upstate New York come from within New York State. State legislation will also help the illegal gun problem in New York City. While the majority of New York City's crime guns originate from other states, nearly 20% of crime guns used in NYC were originally purchased in New York State.

The ballistics bill is designed to ensure all of New York State's forensic tools are used to a full extent to ensure that crimes are solved sooner.

Dr. Sheldon Teperman, Trauma Surgeon and NYAGV Board Member stated, "I have had to tell too many parents that their child's gun shot wound was fatal. I have experienced the grieving of families as they grapple with the sudden and violent death caused by illegal guns. Our state must do all we can to keep guns out of prohibited hands and prioritize law enforcement efforts to apprehend gun traffickers".

Kuhls closed, "The New York State Senate must get serious about shutting off the source of illegal guns by passing S2404 and S3009."I

**Contact: Jackie Kuhls 917-587-4108**

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence 3W 29th St. Suite 1007 New York, NY 10001 212-679-2345

nyagv@nyagv.org www.nyagv.org