New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Working to Reduce Gun Violence Since 1993

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Protest Easy Guns is Joined by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence and Million Mom March

Hold May 24th Lie-In on Times Square to call for Action from Congress in Wake of Country's Deadliest Mass Shooting at Virginia Tech

(New York, NY): 32 protestors wearing black and ribbons of the Virginia Tech school colors gathered today in Times Square to lie down at noon in commemoration of the 32 victims of the Virginia Tech shooting rampage.

Abigail Spangler, Protest Easy Guns founder said, "The shooting rampage at Virginia Tech was the deadliest in U.S. history and the shooter bought his gun in just a few minutes. We staged this event to protest how short a period of time it takes to purchase a gun in many states. Each of the 32 participants lied on the ground together for just a few minutes to symbolize the amount of time it took for the shooter to obtain his gun in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are not against hunters -- we simply want to start a conversation and implore our elected leaders to take a hard look at how we can combine elements of training, education, and background checks so that it takes longer than a few minutes for someone to buy a gun."

Jackie Kuhls, Executive Director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence said, "Our nation's weak gun laws have a direct affect on New York City where 90% of guns used in crime on our streets come from states with lax gun laws."

Today's event participants asked for:

1) Congress to pass the Background Check Improvement Act (HR297) sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy to ensure that dangerous individuals such as the Virginia Tech shooter are not allowed to buy guns

2) Congress to close the gun show loophole to ensure that all gun sellers at gun shows conduct background checks

3) Congress to remove the Tiahrt restrictions in the ATF funding bill to ensure law enforcement has full access to crime gun trace data

Edie Smith, Director of the Million Mom March Manhattan Chapter said, "Our goal is to demonstrate the support of average citizens for sensible gun laws. The common sense measures we are asking for here today reflect what the American people want. Congress must not remain silent while 30,000 Americans die from guns every year. They must take action to save lives.

For more information go to protesteasyguns.com

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