# New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

**Working to Reduce Gun Violence Since 1993**

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## Nearly Six Months After Virginia Tech Massacre: A School Shooting in Cleveland; Inaction from Congress; and Presidential Candidates Pander to the Gun Lobby

## Our Children are in the Line of Fire while Political Leaders Brag of Gun Collections

(New York, NY): School shootings have become as American as apple pie. Today in Cleveland Ohio, a 14 year-old high school student shot 4 individuals and was later killed. There have been more than two dozen school shootings since Columbine and several since our nation's deadliest massacre occured at Virginia Tech last April. The United States stands alone in the industrialized world with a toll as high as 30,000 gun deaths per year. Our nation's appallingly weak gun laws contribute to this tragedy. **It is time for Congress to lead by:**

1) Passing 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)Closing the gun show loophole to ensure that all gun sellers at gun shows conduct background checks.

3) Removing the Tiahrt and Shelby restrictions in the ATF funding bill to ensure law enforcement has full access to crime gun trace data. Despite the recent ATF publication of a select portion of data, the restrictions that have been used to withold information for 5 years are still in place, and much of the information remains unavailable. There was no reason for these restrictions and they should be removed.

**Presidential candidates must recognize school shootings and 30,000 gun deaths every year as a public health epidemic.** They must stop the shameful pandering to the gun lobby and start engaging in discussion about common sense solutions. Jackie Kuhls, NYAGV Executive Director said, "Gun violence is deadly serious and it is an insult to the families of the 30,000 dead to not only ignore their plight but to pay homage to the very organization that has worked to weaken our nation's gun laws."

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