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Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, California Chapter

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CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF MOMS DEMAND ACTION CALLS FOR REVERSAL OF COURT DECISION TO LOOSEN CONCEALED-CARRY LAWS IN CALIFORNIA

Ruling Will Allow Concealed Carry of Guns Without “Good Cause”

(CITY, CA) March 3, 2014 – The California chapter of Moms Demand Action today called for the reversal of a ruling by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that overturned California’s long-standing restrictions on concealed handguns. The ruling in *Peruta v. County of San Diego* removed the discretion formerly given to local sheriffs and police chiefs in determining who should be allowed to conceal-carry in public and the requirement to show “good cause” in order to obtain a concealed-carry permit.

Under California law, counties may permit individuals to carry concealed, loaded guns in public if the permit applicant demonstrates "good cause." While local law enforcement has some discretion in defining "good cause," in general most sheriffs and police chiefs require that the applicant prove he or she faces some threat to his or her safety greater than that faced by an average member of the public.

“We often say we are lucky to live in California because we have some of the strongest gun laws in the country,” said Catherine Stephani, California chapter leader for Moms Demand Action. “Despite the size and complexity of our state, we have one of the lowest rates of gun-related mortalities in the nation. This is largely attributable to our tight gun laws that balance both Second Amendment rights and public safety.”

If the ruling stands, more guns will be allowed in more public places. By some estimates, a half-million additional guns will soon be on the streets in California.

“This will fundamentally change public life in California, where dining in restaurants, riding on a train, or standing in a checkout line next to someone carrying a loaded firearm is not customary,” said Stephani. “Other states live this reality, but this has not been our way of life in California.”

Despite the announcement by the San Diego County sheriff that he would not appeal the panel's February 13 ruling, the decision may still be reviewed. On February 27, California Attorney General Kamala Harris asked the Ninth Circuit to review and reverse the recent three-judge panel decision. Since the ruling, Harris has been cited in press reports that she "will do everything possible to restore law enforcement's authority to protect public safety."

"We cannot rest on our laurels and remain silent," said Stephani. "Statistics show clearly that more guns do not make us safer. We must let our leaders know at every possible level of our government that we refuse to allow the reversal of the very laws that have helped prevent gun violence in California. Our moms call on all Californians to speak up now, for the health and safety of our families and communities."

About Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to change laws regarding drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to build support for common-sense gun reforms. The nonpartisan grassroots movement of American mothers is demanding new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families. In just one year, the organization has more than 140,000 members with a chapter in every state in the country. The group recently joined forces with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. For more information or to get involved visit www.momsdemandaction.org. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction or on Twitter @MomsDemand.

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