



Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
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**LUCY MCBATH, NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR  
MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA,  
TO TESTIFY AT FLORIDA HOUSE STAND YOUR GROUND HEARING**

*Moms Demand Action Members to attend  
in Support of Repealing Dangerous Stand Your Ground Law*

[Tallahassee, FL] Thurs., Nov. 7, 2013—Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America members will attend today's Florida House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on Stand Your Ground laws. Prior to the hearing, Moms Demand Action members will hand-deliver written testimony to each committee member's office.

In a five-hour meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will consider H.B. 4003, "Use of Deadly Force in Defense of a Person," by Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee. This bill would repeal "Stand Your Ground." According to Williams, this will be the first time in our country that any legislature has taken up a bill to repeal "Stand Your Ground" laws.

Lucy McBath, a national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action who lost her 17-year-old son Jordan Davis to gun violence in 2012, will testify at the hearing. McBath's son was 17 when he was shot and killed by Michael David Dunn, a registered gun owner, in a Jacksonville parking lot. Dunn claimed he fired eight or nine bullets at Jordan and his friends in self-defense following a verbal exchange with the boys, and he will reportedly be using the Stand Your Ground defense when he goes to trial on first-degree murder and attempted murder charges early in 2014. Jordan and his friends were unarmed inside their vehicle when Dunn opened fire.

"In light of the current gun culture, America finds itself hostage to the misuse of our nations' Stand Your Ground laws. If these laws are not either amended or repealed I am afraid that we as a 'civilized' nation will self-destruct using these laws to justify senseless violence," said McBath. "Using violence under the Stand Your Ground laws as a means of conflict resolution is deplorable and our generations to come will suffer for it."

A recent Texas A&M study analyzed 20 states with Stand Your Ground laws, including Florida, and found that the laws do not deter violent crime. In fact, there is a clear increase in homicides in those states, resulting in up to 700 more shooting deaths nationwide each

year. Stand Your Ground laws also disproportionately affect communities of color. According to an Urban Institute study, when white shooters kill black victims, 34 percent of the resulting homicides are deemed justifiable, while only three percent of deaths are ruled justifiable when the shooter is black and the victim is white.

“Stand Your Ground laws endanger our children, families, and communities,” said Chryl Anderson, Jacksonville ambassador of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. “As seen in the case of my good friend Lucy McBath’s son, Jordan, Stand Your Ground laws turn everyday conflicts into deadly tragedies and give reckless vigilantes a license to kill. Florida moms will never stop working to roll back this dangerous law. We will not sit idly by while our children and families remain at risk.”

Moms Demand Action has launched a petition demanding the repeal of all Stand Your Ground Laws in more than 20 states across America. When 25,000 signatures have been attained the group plans to deliver the petition to the governors of key states with Stand Your Ground laws, including Florida.

<http://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/repeal-stand-your-ground-laws-across-america-1?source=facebook-share-button&time=1383065749>

### **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 10 months, the organization has more than 100,000 members with a chapter in every state in the country. For more information or to get involved visit [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org). Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction](https://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction) or on Twitter @MomsDemand.

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