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**MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA  
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER TO HOLD DOMESTIC GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS EVENT**

**Moms Demand Action-Pennsylvania Chapter will host a Rally Highlighting the Need for  
Stronger Legislation**

(Coopersburg, PA) Oct. 22, 2013: In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America has launched a national domestic gun violence awareness campaign to push for stronger policies surrounding domestic violence and gun ownership.

**The local Pennsylvania Chapter will be participating with a rally on October 23, 2013 at Representative Justin Simmon's Coopersburg office at 12pm.**

Featured speakers will include Linda Morrison, Lehigh Valley ambassador of the Pennsylvania chapter of Moms Demand Action, and Julia Ramsey, President of Pennsylvania NOW.

Moms Demand Action is partnering with the Violence Policy Center (VPC) to promote its report, [\*When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data\*](#), released Sept. 25, 2013, which lists the top 10 states with the highest rates of females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents in 2011.

According to the new report:

- Firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapon used by males to murder females in 2011.
- Of the females killed with a firearm, nearly two-thirds were murdered by male intimates.
- The number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance (489 victims) was more than five times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined (92 victims) in single victim/single offender incidents in 2011.
- Although felons, domestic abusers, and people with severe mental illness are prohibited from buying or owning firearms, a dangerous loophole in Pennsylvania law allows individuals to buy long guns in private sales without background checks. Although handguns are used more frequently in crimes, long guns are used disproportionately by criminals to murder law enforcement officers and by domestic abusers to murder women. House Bill 1010, currently

being considered by the state legislature, would close this dangerous gap and enforce the law that prohibits dangerous people from buying long guns.

“We are asking Congress to protect women from domestic abusers by immediately enacting common-sense reforms that will help keep guns out of dangerous hands,” said Christine Licata, chapter leader of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – Pennsylvania Chapter. “It is far too easy for an abuser or someone with a domestic violence conviction to get his hands on a gun without a background check. We urgently need better policies that protect women and their families from this senseless violence. No American, adult or child, should live in a perpetual state of fear. It’s inhumane.”

Linda Morrison added that, at the rally, “We will honor the nine women shot and killed by their abusers each week, and demand that PA State Representative Justin Simmons take action and co-sponsor PA House Bill 1010 to expand background checks to all firearm purchases.”

Moms Demand Action is also asking for:

- Members of the House to co-sponsor H.R. 1565, the King/Thompson bill, which would extend background checks to private and online sales of firearms.
- The Senate to bring the Manchin/Toomey bill back to the Senate floor and pass it. This legislation would also expand the background check system and close loopholes that would help keep guns out of dangerous hands.
- Both chambers to commit to working on and supporting legislation to protect abused women, like S. 1290, the "Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2013;" H.R. 2648, the "Keeping Guns from High Risk Individuals Act;" H.R. 1914, the "Preventing Victims of Stalking Act of 2013;" and, H.R. 1177, the "Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act."

“The sad reality is that women are nearly always murdered by someone they know,” said VPC Legislative Director Kristen Rand. “We need new policies in place from local communities to the federal government to protect women from harm.”

As part of the domestic gun violence awareness campaign, Moms Demand Action is encouraging moms to create and decorate a number “9” to represent the nine women who lose their lives each week to domestic gun violence. The “9” will be sent electronically and delivered in-person to members of Congress. <http://momsdemandaction.org/domestic-gun-violence/>

### **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 nine 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](http://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction) or on Twitter [@MomsDemand](https://twitter.com/MomsDemand).