



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA RESPONDS TO RECENT
NEGLIGENT SHOOTING OF TODDLER IN NEW JERSEY
New Jersey Moms Applaud Camden Police Chief's Statement**

(Camden, NJ) Jan. 2, 2014 – Chief J. Scott Thomson of the Camden County Police Department announced yesterday that charges would be filed in the negligent shooting of a 2-year-old boy on New Year's Eve. His father was reportedly driving when he attempted to conceal a handgun in the car's center console and unwittingly fired the weapon, shooting his son in the left arm and left leg. The father has been charged with possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, being a certain person not to have weapons, aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of a child and possession of a controlled dangerous substance

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America New Jersey Chapter applauds Chief Thomson's decision to hold adults accountable for shootings involving children and for recognizing that shootings of this type are not "accidents." Those who endanger children through improper and reckless gun possession must be penalized. We are also gratified that Chief Thomson's concern regarding the illegal possession of firearms which, in his words, "lies at the heart of our greatest challenge in reducing gun crime."

Current New Jersey law provides that a person who improperly stores a firearm where a child can gain access can be charged with child endangerment. In addition, a "person who knows or reasonably should know that a minor [under 16 years of age] is likely to gain access to a loaded firearm at a premises under the person's control" is criminally liable for a misdemeanor if a minor gains access to a firearm. Moms Demand Action has been outspoken on the issue of minors being shot by improperly handled firearms and will continue to push for stronger child endangerment laws as well as child access prevention laws and, importantly, enforcement of those laws in all states.

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 130,000 members with a chapter in every state 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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