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**MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA LAUNCHES OCTOBER DOMESTIC GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**Number 1 on the Top 10 Worst State List. The Moms Demand Action-South Carolina Chapter will host a Press Conference Highlighting the Need for Stronger Legislation**

(Greenville, SC) October 15, 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 South Carolina Chapter will be participating with a press conference on October 19, 2013 adjacent and outside of the Sears Shelter at 100 E. Park St. at Main St. in Greenville, 2pm.** Featured speakers will include Becky Callaham, Executive Director of Safe Harbor and Traci Fant, CEO of Think2xTwice.org.

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. The report revealed that South Carolina had the #1 worst homicide rate among female victims murdered by males.

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.
- In South Carolina, where the offender information could be identified, 93% of victims were murdered by someone they knew.

- In South Carolina, where the weapon could be identified, 57% of women were murdered with guns, and of those 68% by handguns.

“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 Erin Dando, chapter leader of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – South Carolina. “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.”

Moms Demand Action is 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."
- Sign our South Carolina petition. <http://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/prevent-domestic-gun-violence-in-south-carolina>

“Domestic violence homicide is never an isolated incident. There are always warning signs and red flags leading up to it. SC needs to provide meaningful resources to help victims before their situation becomes lethal,” said Becky Callahan, Safe Harbor Executive Director.

“Statistics show us that the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation, whether by the perpetrator or the victim, increases lethality risk by three times. Federal laws prohibit someone who has been convicted of Criminal Domestic Violence or has an Order of Protection against them from having a firearm. We need to insure that these laws are enforced in SC.”

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/>

“The sad reality is that women are nearly always murdered by someone they know,” said Traci Fant, CEO of Think2xTwice.org. “We need new policies in place from local communities to the federal government to protect women from harm.”

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