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

**Moms Demand Action Texas Chapter will host a Press Conference Highlighting the Need for Stronger Legislation**

(Austin, TX) Oct. 16, 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 Texas Chapter is hosting a press conference on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at Austin City Hall from 10:00-10:30 AM**

Featured speakers will include:

- Gretta Gardner, JD, Chair of the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Task Force
- Carlos B. Lopez, Constable, Precinct 5, and Member, Travis County Family Violence Protection Team
- Elizabeth Crecente, mother of Jennifer Crecente, a Bowie High School honors student who, in 2006 at the age of 18, was tragically murdered with a firearm by an ex-boyfriend
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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.
- Texas had the second highest total number of females murdered by an intimate partner in 2011: 171.
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“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 Hilary Rand, regional manager for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America’s Texas 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.”

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."

“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/>

In addition, Moms Demand Action is sponsoring a “Week of Action” beginning Monday, Oct. 14, during which members will have in-district meetings with members of Congress, as well as coordinated days of action, including email, phone and social media campaigns. The week will culminate with press conferences on Saturday, Oct. 19, in key states around the country, including Texas.

### **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.