



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, North Carolina  
Contact: Suzanne Conway, Regional Manager

E-mail: [sconway@momsdemandaction.org](mailto:sconway@momsdemandaction.org)

**NORTH CAROLINA MOMS CALL ON D.A. FOR CLARIFICATION IN TODDLER SHOOTING INCIDENT**

(Charlotte, NC) Feb. 21, 2014—North Carolina members of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America today called on District Attorney Rick Shaffer to review relevant state law in relation to the shooting of a toddler in Patterson Springs.

Three weeks ago a 3-year-old boy took a loaded handgun from a compartment on top of his father's dresser and shot his 17-month-old sister. The father said the toddler climbed onto a stool and was able to remove and shoot the gun without the knowledge of his parents. His sister is recovering from her injuries.

Based on North Carolina law, such a shooting should not be classified as accidental. Under state law, "Any person who resides in the same premises as a minor, owns or possesses a firearm, and stores or leaves the firearm . . . [loaded and] in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm . . . and the minor . . . causes personal injury or death . . ." (N.C. G.S. 14-315.1).

"Thirty years of public health research tells us that these tragedies are preventable," said Suzanne Conway, Regional Manager of Moms Demand Action. "If a family with young children chooses to own a gun, it is paramount that the firearm is stored securely. It is not an accident when a toddler finds a gun; it is negligence, plain and simple."

**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 140,000 members with a chapter in every state in the country. The group recently joined forces with [Mayors Against Illegal Guns](#), the largest gun violence prevention organization 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

**###**