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**RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF MOMS DEMAND ACTION OPPOSES HOUSE
BILL 7856: ALLOWING FIREARMS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

(Providence, RI) March 18, 2014 – On Tuesday, members of the Rhode Island chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America testified before the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee in opposition to House Bill 7856 (H 7856), a bill that, if passed, would allow adults, with the exception of students, to possess a firearm on school grounds. This bill would allow anyone who is not a student, but who is 18-years-old or older (e.g., teachers, janitors, staff or other adults), to bring firearms onto school property and would rollback the current law, RIGL 11-47-60, which prohibits possession of firearms or other weapons on school grounds.

“This bill would make Rhode Island children less safe in their schools, not more,” said Nan Heroux, a Middletown grandmother and the Rhode Island chapter communications lead of Moms Demand Action. “While we trust our teachers and school administrators to put the health and safety of our children first, they did not sign up to provide a frontline defense against gun violence. Asking volunteers to be sharpshooters is ridiculous, not to mention dangerous.”

Heroux and other members of Moms Demand Action testified Tuesday in opposition to H 7856 before the House Judiciary Committee.

There have been [nearly 60 shootings at American schools since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School](#). The Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence and Religious Coalition for a Violence-Free Rhode Island also oppose this bill. These coalitions represent 18 nonprofit human service organizations and 75 religious leaders representing 13 faith communities, respectively.

“Instead of providing easier, unregulated access to firearms, our legislators should focus on real policy solutions that would keep guns out of the wrong hands, including strengthening the background check system,” said Heroux.

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 150,000 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. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction or on Twitter @MomsDemand

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