

# MOMS DEMAND ACTION

FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

May 28, 2014

## **Contact**

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## **MOMS LAUNCH PETITION CALLING ON CHILI'S AND SONIC DRIVE-IN TO PROHIBIT OPEN CARRY OF FIREARMS FOLLOWING GUN EXTREMIST GROUP DEMONSTRATIONS AT RESTAURANTS**

*Petition Follows Previous Moms Demand Action Corporate Public Safety Victories with Chipotle, Starbucks, Facebook, Instagram, Jack in the Box; #RibsNotRifles #ShakesNotShotguns*

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched a national petition today calling on Chili's Grill and Bar CEO Kelli Valade and Sonic Drive-In CEO J. Clifford Hudson to prohibit the open carry of firearms after gun extremists with loaded assault weapons held demonstrations in San Antonio restaurants last week ([photos here.](#)) The [Huffington Post](#) and [Mother Jones](#) were prompted by Moms Demand Action to call on these companies to respond and both restaurants stated that they are reviewing their gun policies to protect customers and employees.

The petition to Chili's and Sonic, [which can be found here](#), comes on the heels of similar demonstrations at [Chipotle](#) and [Jack in the Box](#) that led both companies to take swift action to stand with Moms and enforce or adopt policies to protect the safety of their employees and customers.

"Moms should be able to take our children to family-oriented restaurants like Chili's and Sonic and not have to worry about being confronted by customers with semiautomatic rifles," **said Shannon Watts, Founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.** "We support the Second Amendment, but people displaying their loaded weapons at the places we take our children to eat—as these extremist gun groups have been doing – is unacceptable. How can we, or the store's employees or law enforcement, possibly know if they are good guys or bad guys? That's why we are calling on Chili's and Sonic to follow the lead of Chipotle and Starbucks and clearly state that open carry is not welcome in their restaurants."

The potential for risk is heightened given that Chili's sells alcohol and [research from the U.S. Department of Justice](#) found that approximately 40 percent of those convicted of homicide had been drinking at the time of their offense – furthering the case that guns should not be allowed in restaurants that serve alcohol. In addition, Sonic Drive-Ins in San Antonio have experienced a spate of gun violence recently – [two people were shot outside a Sonic on April 25](#) and an [employee was shot during an attempted robbery on May 17](#).

In states where no background checks or training are required to buy semi-automatic rifles and carry them openly in public, businesses have a duty to protect their employees and patrons. Texas law – and the laws in a majority of states – allows people to openly carry loaded rifles in public with absolutely no training, permitting, or minimum age requirement. Combined with estimates that 40 percent of gun sales occur without a background check in the U.S., this means that people in most states can legally carry loaded rifles in public without ever having passed a criminal background check.

Just last week [Chipotle quickly responded to a Moms' petition by asking customers to leave their guns at home](#), “because the display of firearms in our restaurants has now created an environment that is potentially intimidating or uncomfortable for many of our customers.” Earlier this month, [Jack in the Box responded to the Moms' petition](#) by announcing that it would enforce a prohibition of guns in its stores, stating that, “the presence of guns inside a restaurant could create an uncomfortable situation for our guests and employees and lead to unintended consequences.”

Moms Demand Action previously launched petitions that garnered hundreds of thousands of signatures asking Starbucks, Facebook, and Instagram to reform the companies' gun policies to make customers and communities safer. [Starbucks announced that guns are no longer welcome in its stores](#) as a result of the campaign. [Facebook and Instagram](#) also announced changes to block illegal gun sales after 230,000 Americans signed a Moms Demand Action petition asking for stronger protections against illegal gun sales on the two social media platforms.

### **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. Since its inception after the Sandy Hook Elementary mass shooting, Moms Demand Action has established a chapter in every state of the country and is part of Everytown for Gun Safety along with Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Everytown is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with more than 1.5 million supporters including moms, mayors, survivors, and everyday Americans who are fighting for reforms that respect the Second Amendment and protect people. For more information or to get involved visit [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction](https://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction) or on Twitter at @MomsDemand

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