

**BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE
PROTEST EASY GUNS**

For Media Planning Purposes

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

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**COLUMBIA RESIDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE IN
PROTEST OF WEAK STATE GUN LAWS**

*Protest part of ProtestEasyGuns.com, a grass-roots movement to affect national
change in easy gun access for criminals and the mentally unstable*

Columbia, S.C. – In the aftermath of horrific shootings in Virginia, Nebraska and Colorado, concerned **Columbia, S.C. citizens** are demanding action on lax gun laws. This **Wednesday, January 30 at Noon at the South Carolina State Capitol**, concerned citizens will stage a demonstration to urge that more action be taken to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

“We must give law enforcement the tools they need to fight. To do so, our elected leaders need to take responsible action and enact common sense gun laws that keep guns away from criminals and other dangerous people,” said Joanne Hafter, who is organizing Wednesday’s demonstration.

Hafter’s daughter, Lizzy Hafter, a Dean’s List graduate of the University of Virginia, was murdered in September 2006 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Charlottesville, Virginia. The killer had stolen the gun weeks earlier. The gun had not been reported stolen. Lizzy’s mother is advocating for a law in South Carolina, Lizzy’s Law, to require gun owners to report to police a gun that has been lost or stolen.

Columbia’s demonstration will be on the north side of the State House, at 1100 Gervais Street, at the intersection of Gervais and Main Streets. On Wednesday, about thirty-two people, wearing black clothing and Virginia Tech ribbons, will lie down on the ground in remembrance of the 32 killed at Virginia Tech. The “lie-in” will last three minutes, approximately the average time it takes to purchase a handgun in the United States. This is the second “lie-in” protest of 2008.

ProtestEasyGuns.com is a grassroots protest movement that emerged last year in response to the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history at Virginia Tech. Supporters are outraged at how easy it is to obtain a gun in the United States and believe it is time to change lax U.S. gun laws that allow criminals and dangerous individuals easy access to guns. Each of the protests includes about 32 individuals (symbolizing the number of students and teachers murdered at Virginia Tech). Protesters lie down silently for three

minutes (signifying the brief amount of time it takes to buy a gun in the United States). The goal is to encourage like-minded citizens to stage their own protests around the country to influence the public discourse and ultimately the legislative process with regard to this critical national problem. Visit www.protesteasyguns.org.

As the nation's largest, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence, the Brady Campaign, with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, works to enact and enforce sensible gun laws, regulations and public policies. The Brady Campaign is devoted to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities.

For continuing insight and comment on the gun issue, read Paul Helmke's blog at www.bradycampaign.org/blog/. Visit the Brady Campaign website at www.bradycampaign.org.

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