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**CONCERNED CITIZENS STAGE PROTEST AGAINST LAX VIRGINIA GUN LAWS**  
**Private citizens, both Republicans and Democrats, express outrage over Virginia Tech shooting rampage – aim to increase public discourse on existing gun laws**

**LOCAL DATELINE (MAY 29, 2007) -**

A group of local mothers and concerned citizens are staging a protest on Sunday, June 3, 2007, at 12:00 noon, in McLean, Virginia, at the Old Firehouse Teen Center at 1440 Old Chain Bridge Road. The civil protest is being held to express the group's outrage over the shootings that took place at Virginia Tech, the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history. Protesters are attempting to drive public discourse and draw attention to the fact that it takes mere moments for individuals to purchase a gun in America.

The planned event will be similar to a Civil Rights "sit-in" protest action, but different in that 32 mothers will lie on the ground together for several minutes to symbolize the 32 victims who died and the amount of time it took for the shooter to obtain his gun in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Other concerned citizens are encouraged to join the protesters at noon in downtown McLean to lend their support.

The idea came from Abby Spangler, who organized a similar protest in Alexandria on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since her initial protest in Alexandria, there have been multiple other protests, locally as well as in New York City and Philadelphia.

Shelley Slade and Anjali Gupta decided to bring this protest to McLean, Virginia. They recruited local mothers, representatives from both political parties, to bring attention to the lax gun laws in the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere in the United States.

One of the group's organizers, Anjali Gupta, said, "Politicians across both political parties spend so much time talking about 'national security.' Yet our own communities do not feel secure to most U.S. citizens because of the easy access to guns. Politicians talk about 'the world of terror' yet they continue to fail to address the terror these lax gun laws create for our communities and children. We continue to hope that some political leader will have the concern and the courage to step up and do the right thing."

Ms. Slade commented: "A radical change in how Virginia regulates access to weapons is required. At a minimum, there is just no justification for the failure of our leaders to close the gun show loophole, ban the sale of assault weapons, and require gun dealers to perform rigorous background checks in coordination with other states and the FBI. A little more common sense in our legislative process could prevent senseless acts of violence like that seen at Virginia Tech."

**PROTEST DETAILS:**

**WHEN: Sunday, June 3rd, 2007**

**TIME: NOON, promptly**

**WHERE: The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road**