

CeaseFirePA

Taking a Stand Against Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact Shira Goodman, Executive Director

Email: shira.goodman@ceasefirepa.org

[\(215\) 680-1163](tel:(215)680-1163)

Delaware Valley Comes Together to Remember Sandy Hook and Unite in a Call for Action

Villanova, December 7, 2013 – Today, CeaseFirePA joined groups from across the Delaware Valley in a moving program to remember and honor the victims of Sandy Hook, and all the gun violence victims and survivors before and since that tragedy. Mixed in with the solemn memorial was a stirring call for Pennsylvania to take action to make our communities safer.

Many speakers noted that we have become too skilled at observing the anniversaries of tragedies. As Lori Haas, mother of a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting, noted, "Every day is a tragedy for some family that has fallen victim to gun violence. We need real action that will reduce the incidences of these tragedies and bring real change that prevents senseless death."

Former Governor Ed Rendell urged the crowd to use the power of citizen action to make Pennsylvania a leader in the gun violence prevention movement. "You have the power," he explained, "the elected officials in Harrisburg must listen to the commonsense of the voters who put them there."

The call to action focused on growing support for House Bill 1010, which would expand background checks to cover the private sale of long guns and would essentially mean that all gun sales in Pennsylvania would be subject to a background check. In addition, Shira Goodman, Executive Director of CeaseFirePA, urged Pennsylvanians to call on Governor Tom Corbett to make gun violence prevention a priority for Pennsylvania: "The energy and shared commitment that unites so many groups today is exactly what will be the source of strength that propels us to victory in Pennsylvania. Together, we will break the silence of Harrisburg."

Today's program was sponsored by CeaseFirePA, Bucks Against Gun Violence, Bucks Safe, Buxmont Coalition for Peace Action, Chester County Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, Delaware County United for Sensible Gun Policy, Heeding God's Call, Lower Merion United, Mayors Against Illegal Guns and Villanova University Center for Peace and Justice Education