

Misty Uribe

Good morning, Charlotte! My name is **Misty Uribe** and today I stand up here as a survivor. A word I never thought I would have to use to describe myself. That is until our next-door neighbor left his unsecured and loaded rifle out for his 8-year-old son to grab. Survivor is a word my family and I began to use when my 8-year-old son had to watch his friend, -the next-door neighbor's son, shoot their other 11-year-old friend in the face with that same loaded and unsecured rifle left out by his irresponsible father. By miracle the little boy that was shot lived, but it will be with all effected for life.

After this preventable shooting took place I knew I never wanted another parent to feel so empty inside. I never wanted parents to have to second guess their decisions on who to let their child play with and where. I decided to take a stand with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America -a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. They campaign for stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families.

Moms Demand action was founded after Sandy Hook, the tragedy that shook our country to its core. The Sandy Hook School mass shooting rocked the nation and it forced us to take a hard look at the gun violence that kills 100 Americans, and injures hundreds more, every single day. It forced us to stand up to the gun lobby and the politicians who try to silence us.

Unfortunately gun violence is a woman's issue! Over the past 25 years, more intimate partner homicides in the U.S. have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined. Guns make it more likely that domestic abuse will turn into murder: When a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, it increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent. As we stand here together we have to say that this is ENOUGH! Congress should close the loopholes in the federal gun prohibitions to ensure that stalkers and dating partners are barred from gun ownership just like other dangerous abusers. We need to enact better laws to make woman safer like require comprehensive background checks and ensure that prohibited domestic abusers cannot easily evade background checks by buying guns from unlicensed sellers. Thirty-eight percent fewer women are shot and killed by intimate partners in states that require background checks on all handgun sales.

We have to hold our elected officials accountable and let them know that we are tired our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children dying from a bullet that the NRA profits from. I ask you to join me in the fight to end gun violence in America. Moms Demand Action has local groups all over North Carolina. Please text Ready to 64433 to see how you can volunteer in your area. If you see anyone in a Moms Demand Action shirt stop them and ask them what you can do to end gun violence. We are women –we are strong, we are powerful, and we are determined. We can and will do anything we put our minds too. We were made to be relentless and withstand and overcome our obstacles –and we can do that, together.

I am truly honored to stand up here in front of women who are ready to take our Country back. We are ready to take our Country back from the men who are now learning that underestimating a determined woman was the wrong idea! While I stand up here I set an example to my girls to never back down from the injustice that you see in the world. We are all here to show them that while all women are strong and fierce, when standing united, we are a force to be reckoned with.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak with you all today – always remember to Keep Going!