

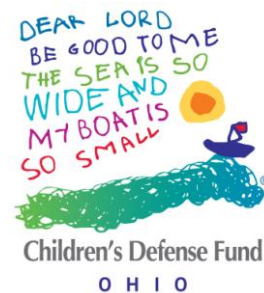
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2012

Renuka Mayadev

614-221-2244

rmayadev@cdfohio.org



Children's Defense Fund Calls for Ohio CAP Law-New Report Finds Loaded and Unlocked Guns are Killing Ohio's Children

Columbus, OH – The Children's Defense Fund-Ohio calls on Ohio lawmakers and all those who care about Ohio's children to protect children, not guns. In a blistering new report released today, the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio found 370 children and teens in Ohio died from gun violence between 2004 and 2008. The report reveals most gun homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings involving children and teens are due to the easy accessibility of loaded and unlocked guns in the home.

In the wake of the Newtown, CT massacre when 20 six and seven year olds were killed, we find compelling evidence that a new law could protect Ohio's children from such a tragedy. Adam Lanza's home contained unlocked guns that were easily accessible to him. In fact, he used one of his mother's guns to murder her, then 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School before he killed himself.

Renuka Mayadev, Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio says, "Now is the time to act. We have the power to build safe and secure communities for our children. We cannot afford to wait for the next tragedy. Our children demand our protection. Today."

The report, entitled *Preventing Firearm Injuries and Fatalities Among Ohio's Youth: The Need to Implement a Comprehensive and Effective CAP Law in Ohio*, calls on the Ohio legislature to save children's lives by enacting a Child Access Prevention Law (CAP) law that would require all guns to be stored safely and securely. Evidence shows that CAP laws prevent gun deaths and injuries among children and teens, and reduce the significant economic, psychological, and emotional costs from gun violence.

The report outlines model provisions which include prohibiting negligent storage of guns "in any place" or "within any premises;" imposing felony liability on gun owners whenever minors gain access to guns and are injured or killed; obligating gun owners to store guns unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked and stored in a separate location whenever they know or reasonably should know that children are likely to gain access to guns;

providing an exception in the law for carrying guns or holding guns under one's immediate control; and requiring that warnings about the law be distributed to gun purchasers.

The electronic version of the issue brief can be accessed online at <http://www.cdfohio.org/assets/pdf-files/policy-brief-guns.pdf>

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

###