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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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Karen Mallard Earns National Gun Violence Prevention Distinction

Virginia Beach, Va. – March 22, 2018 – Karen Mallard, Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia's 2nd District, has been given the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Distinction by one of the leading grassroots gun violence prevention movements in the country.

“I’m honored to receive this Moms Demand Action Distinction,” Mallard said. “They’ve been out there on the front lines, fighting the good fight. I’m proud to stand with them in their call for desperately needed gun reform. I’ll work everyday to live up to the faith they’ve placed in me.”

Mallard, a longtime public school teacher, has become a national voice on the subject of gun reform in the weeks since the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. In an act of solidarity with the students, she destroyed her family’s assault rifle, forever taking it off commission. That move did not sit well, however, with the National Rifle Association and its followers who have attacked her online and attempted to have her arrested by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The calculated move by the NRA, no doubt served its purposes, raising money and putting Americans on notice for exercising their First Amendment rights, but they didn’t count on the resiliency of this Virginia school teacher. The video of Mallard destroying the AR-15 went viral, getting more than three-million views and nearly 50,000 comments in just a matter of days.

“It was really a simple gesture,” Mallard said. “I didn’t want the gun in my house and I didn’t want it to end up in anyone else’s hands. I would think that supporters of the Second Amendment would appreciate that. Some haven’t and if they want to have a reasonable discussion, I’m open to that. But if they expect me to back down or stay silent, that simply isn’t going to happen.”

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America singles out candidates who take a stand in the fight for common-sense gun safety. Moms Demand Action was established in 2012 as a response to the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. It’s part of the Everytown for Gun Safety Network, which numbers more than four-million supporters, making it the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country.
