

Obama presses his gun proposals in Minnesota

Contributed by JULIE PACE
Tuesday, 05 February 2013
Last Updated Tuesday, 05 February 2013

MINNEAPOLIS

(AP) _ With his gun proposals dividing Congress, President Barack Obama conceded Monday the challenges he faces in winning support for measures ranging from criminal checks on gun buyers to an assault weapons ban. But, he declared: ``We don't have to agree on everything to agree it's time to do something."''

Obama argued that there's bipartisan support for universal background checks and for gun trafficking laws. But, acknowledging the political challenges he faces, he would say only that the assault weapons ban deserves a vote in Congress.

``Changing the status quo is never easy," Obama said. ``This will be no exception.

The only way we can reduce gun violence in this county is if the American people decide it's important, if you decide it's important _ parents and teachers, police officers and pastors, hunters and sportsmen, Americans of every background stand up and say, `This time, it's got to be different.'"

Before his remarks, Obama held a roundtable discussion at the Minneapolis Police Department Special Operations Center, speaking with law enforcement and community leaders.

Obama made his pitch in Minnesota, a Democratic-leaning state where officials have been studying ways to reduce gun-related attacks and accidents for several years. It was the first he has campaigned on his proposals outside of Washington.

Ahead of the trip, the White House released a photo of the president skeet shooting at Camp David, the presidential retreat. Obama cited skeet shooting when asked in a recent interview whether he had ever shot a gun.