

State Sen. Erpenbach: Democrats urge action to tackle gun violence

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MADISON, WI – As gun violence continues to plague communities and families, legislative Democrats have introduced proposals to enact Extreme Risk Protection Orders and close the gun show loophole that allows convicted felons to purchase firearms. As a co-sponsor of these two proposals, Senator Jon Erpenbach (D-West Point) released the following statement.

“While an overwhelming majority of gun owners are responsible, there is a dangerous loophole that allows domestic abusers, felons, and others who are prohibited from possessing firearms to buy guns without a background check through non-licensed sellers. It is past time for us to take action to reduce gun violence, and closing this loophole is a common-sense solution that will not take away anyone’s second amendment rights.

“Gun violence is an issue that is affecting everyone across America, particularly right in rural Wisconsin. Suicide rates have been increasing, especially for farmers, and firearms are the most commonly used method of suicide in Wisconsin. Enacting extreme risk protection orders are a way to protect individuals from harming themselves and it is critical that we push for this life-saving measure.”

Mass shootings have happened right here in Wisconsin communities including Middleton, Brookfield, Oak Creek, and Appleton. A Marquette Law Poll found 80 percent of Wisconsinites – including the vast majority of gun owners – support strengthening background checks. That same poll also found that 81 percent of Wisconsinites support Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation that would reduce an individual’s access to firearms if they pose a danger to themselves or others.