

Madison Mayor Rhodes-Conway: Reacts to news about Highland Park suspect's trip to Madison area

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First, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the entire community in Highland Park who are mourning those killed and trying to heal from this horrific event.

Today's news that the suspected shooter traveled to Madison and contemplated violence here is deeply disturbing and only underscores the fact that we need a national approach to dealing with gun violence. Weapons of war have no place in our communities.

While I appreciate the bipartisan agreement reached last week, Congress must pass common sense gun safety laws to protect our communities. Assault weapons and large-capacity magazines must be banned.

We are the only country in the developed world that allows this mayhem to be part of our daily lives. It doesn't have to be this way. We should not have to live in fear of gun violence in our schools, on our streets, at our celebrations.

Here in Madison - and in cities across the country - we are doing what we can to control illegal guns, hold people accountable for gun violence and invest in violence interruption and prevention. But we cannot do this alone. We need Congress to do its job and protect our communities.