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NRA-backed bill threatens school safety

MADISON, WI – School advocates, health professionals and law enforcement officials raised concerns with legislation being pushed by Republican lawmakers and lobbyists from the National Rifle Association (NRA). The proposal, Senate Bill 169 (SB 169), would remove training requirements and give dangerous individuals greater access to firearms.

“It is unfortunate that Republicans continue to side with gun lobbyists at the expense of our children’s safety,” said Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse). “Allowing anyone to carry a loaded, concealed firearm in public without any safety training or a simple background check is completely irresponsible.”

“The overwhelming majority of Wisconsin residents agree that responsible individuals who want to carry a concealed weapon should go through a background check and obtain a permit,” added Shilling. “Too many men, women and children have already died as a result of gun violence. Rather than putting more guns in the hands of dangerous individuals, we should protect families and communities by closing the gun show loophole, strengthening background checks and keeping guns off school property.”

SB 169 would eliminate current training requirements for individuals to carry concealed weapons, lower the concealed carry age from 21 to 18 years old and allow individuals to carry concealed handguns in school classrooms. The bill received strong opposition during a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety today.

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