



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 26, 2018

Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
115 East Capitol  
Madison, WI 53703

Governor Walker:

This session, you have convened three special sessions. We write today to request that you issue an executive order calling for a special session of the Wisconsin Legislature to save lives, protect our children, and safeguard our communities by passing common-sense gun safety legislation that has been pending this session in legislative committees without any action.

Last week, despite the support of 90% of the public, Assembly Republicans blocked the consideration of a comprehensive background check bill. An estimated 20% of gun sales occur with “no questions asked” at gun shows and on the internet. This legislation would close these loopholes and be a step forward in preventing dangerous individuals from obtaining firearms.

Policy makers at every level must act now to stem the epidemic of gun violence and mass shootings that have become all too common in our country. Because dangerous individuals have easy access to firearms, too frequent acts of deadly violence have occurred at rural, suburban and urban communities throughout our state and nation. Particularly distressing are school shootings where innocent children who expect to be safe in a learning environment are brutally murdered. The resulting trauma is not just impacting families, friends and communities who have lost loved ones, but to our children in general, who should not have to witness such atrocities or being murdered at school.

We are not immune in Wisconsin, and many communities and families have been devastated in the aftermath of senseless gun violence. The rate of children killed by firearms in Wisconsin rose 31% between 2008-10 and 2012-14, while the national rate dropped by seven percent over that same period. The overall firearm death rate in Wisconsin increased by 42.4% from 2009 to 2016. In 2016, a firearm was the weapon used in 53% of domestic violence homicide incidents in Wisconsin.

Many of these deaths are preventable. As elected officials, we have a duty and a responsibility to do everything we can to promulgate preventative and proactive laws that keep people safe and keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

We must take meaningful steps to prevent the senseless killing of innocent individuals. The following bills, which have been sitting in legislative committees, are the most basic first steps and have overwhelming public support:

- **Assembly Bill 65/Senate Bill 34:** Institutes universal background checks
- **Assembly Bill 597/Senate Bill 563:** Prohibits individuals convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from possessing a firearm
- **Assembly Bill 616:** Prohibits the sale, manufacture, transfer, use or possession of bump stocks


These are real, meaningful things that can be done to save lives. We ask that you place the lives and safety of our children and communities an urgent priority by calling a special session on these bills.

We hope you will seriously consider our request, and we look forward to your response. Enough is enough. It is past time to act. There are no more excuses.

Sincerely,



Rep. Chris Taylor  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



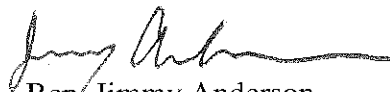
Rep. Terese Berceau  
77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Melissa Sargent  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Lisa Subeck  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



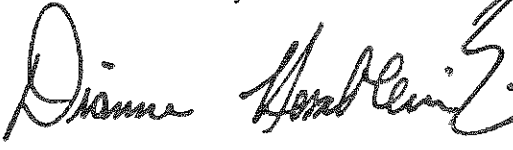
Rep. Jimmy Anderson  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



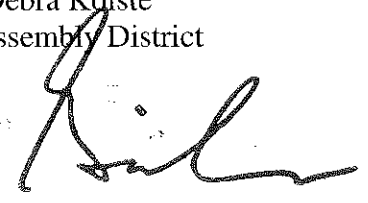
Rep. Debra Kolste  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



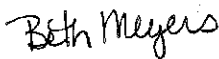
Rep. Gary Hebl  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Dianne Hesselbein  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Eric Genrich  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



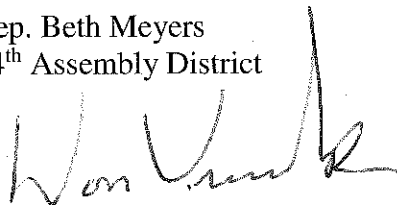
Rep. Beth Meyers  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. David Crowley  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Katrina Shankland  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Don Vruwink  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Rep. Mark Spreitzer  
45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

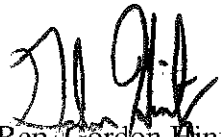


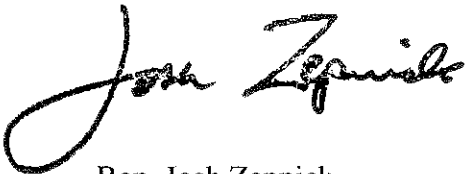
Rep. Tod Ohnstad  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District


  
Rep. Jill Billings  
95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Sony Pope  
80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Rep. Leon Young  
16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

  
Rep. Gordon Hintz  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

  
Rep. Josh Zepnick  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

  
Rep. Peter Barca  
64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District