



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 09, 2019

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Enough is Enough– We Must Do More to Stop Gun Violence in Our Communities

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement to announce the release of LRB-3060/1, relating to prohibiting the Investment Board from making investments in firearms companies:

“Since the tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut in 2012, there have been [2,043 mass shootings](#) in the United States (14 in Wisconsin) taking the lives of 2,317 people, and wounding thousands more. So far, in [2019 alone](#), 135 people have been killed and 433 wounded in 118 mass shootings. Just yesterday, we have witnessed [another devastating shooting in Colorado](#), killing one innocent student and injuring eight others.

[12 in every 100,000 people](#) die by firearms with [nearly 40,000 people](#) dying from gun related deaths in the United States in 2018– the highest rate in 50 years. In addition, countless others have suffered and had their lives dramatically altered due to the loss of a friend or family member.

While SWIB is currently not investing in the firearm industry, there are no provisions from stopping this from happening again in the future. Wisconsin, as a national and global leader with the [25th largest retirement fund in the world](#), has a duty to always have socially conscious and responsible investment practices. Wisconsin should not be profiting from fear and violence– we as a state must take steps to ensure that we are not supporting the creation of revenue off of devastating mass shootings, gun violence, and other gun related deaths.

This is not an attack on responsible gun ownership in the state of Wisconsin, but rather is a call for transparency, moral responsibility, and to say enough is enough– we must do more to stop gun violence in our communities. Financial ties to the corporate firearm industry add to the chokehold that large companies and special interests have in our state, and prohibiting our state investment board from investing in firearms companies in the future is crucial for Wisconsin.

As a state, we can, and should, do better. The damage caused by these weapons is far greater than any return on investment.”

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Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff

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