



Wisconsin Public Health Association
**Wisconsin Association of Local Health
Departments and Boards**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health Groups Call for Action on Special Session Gun Legislation

(Kimberly, WI) – October 31, 2019 –Gun violence is a very real and pressing public health issue. The Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) support the Special Session gun control legislation described in Executive Order #54 signed by Governor Evers on October 21.

As identified in the executive order, gun violence is a serious problem in Wisconsin, particularly in instances of domestic violence and suicide. The presence of a gun increases the incidence of homicide for women by 500 percent in domestic violence situations. Suicide accounted for 71 percent of all death by firearms in Wisconsin from 2013 to 2017.

“The solutions described in Executive Order #54 take significant steps in addressing the alarming statistics regarding gun violence in suicides and domestic violence cases,” said WPHA public affairs committee co-chair Maureen Busalacchi. “We support these efforts and urge the legislature to bring them to a debate and a vote.”

Governor Evers set November 7 as the date for the Special Session; just one week away.

“The public health community respectfully asks legislative leaders to use this week to work with their colleagues and find some common ground on the legislation,” said Linda Conlon, WALHDAB public affairs committee co-chair. “We recognize some may have hesitations with the legislation as currently drafted, but we believe meaningful discussion should take place over the next week to try to find some common ground.”

Representing over 1,200 public health professionals statewide, WPHA and WALHDAB are dedicated to promoting and protecting public health in Wisconsin, which is vital to a healthy population, lower health care costs and a thriving economy.

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