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Rep. Considine Reacts to Legislature's Inaction During Special Session

Madison – Yesterday evening, the Wisconsin State Assembly rejected Governor Evers' call for a special session on gun safety. The special session called for universal background checks on all firearm purchases and the creation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO). Both are data-driven policies that have been proven to work in both red and blue states. Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) released the following statement on the Republican refusal to take up these safety measures:

"I believe that the two bills Governor Evers specifically called for would make our communities safer. Universal background checks would ensure that those purchasing firearms are legally allowed to do so. The ERPO bill would allow law enforcement or family members to request a hearing in front of a judge on the topic of whether an individual is at imminent risk to themselves or others. If a judge deems that individual a risk, the judge would temporarily prevent that person from possessing a firearm. This is a commonsense approach that ensures due process as well as our right to bear arms. Very notably, suicide rates by firearms have decreased in states that have passed ERPO laws.

"As a gun owner, I walk a middle ground on this issue. I believe in the right to bear arms and the right to due process. I take a centrist position because I also know that our communities are not as safe as they could be. When guns are used to cause human suffering, we all fail. I am proud of Governor Evers for taking leadership on this issue. These bills are reasonable steps that we can take at the state level to ensure our safety and wellbeing in Wisconsin. I am disappointed Assembly leadership refused to allow these bills to be heard and debated.

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