



Senate Democrats

February 27, 2018

Senator Scott Fitzgerald
211 South - State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Fitzgerald,

Gun violence prevention is one of the most pressing public health issues we face today. The Wisconsin State Senate has taken no action to prevent these types of tragedies from happening here. As public servants across the political spectrum, surely we can work together to ensure that our neighborhoods and families are secure from senseless gun violence.

While the overwhelming majority of gun owners are consistently responsible with their firearms, we can, and must do more to reduce gun violence. Wisconsin families should feel safe in community spaces like schools, parks, places of worship, workplaces, and health centers.

We ask that you take action to address this issue. We may not all agree on every detail, but surely we can work together to find some common ground. It is possible to move forward in the remaining days of the legislative session. Here are a list of ideas that we have previously introduced:

Revenue limit exemptions for school safety plans. Providing a revenue limit exemption for school safety expenditures would allow schools to best address their unique safety needs.

Prohibit the sale, manufacture, transfer, use or possession of bump stocks. Bump stocks are devices that, when affixed to a firearm, rapidly accelerate the rate of fire for semi-automatic weapons. There is no justification to have a bump stock and they put our communities in danger.

Prohibit individuals convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from possessing a firearm. Wisconsin has no laws prohibiting individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition and no laws requiring the removal of firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident. According to End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, firearms are the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides in our state and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%.

Reinstate the 48 Hour Waiting Period. Waiting periods are proven to prevent impulsive crimes as well as suicide. Cooling off periods allow people the time to get the help they need before ending their life or someone else's.

Institute Universal Background Checks. Background checks have stopped sales to domestic abusers, fugitives, and other people who are prohibited from possessing a firearm. Without universal background checks in place, more guns will get into the hands of the people we all agree should not be armed.

This list is by no means meant to be exhaustive, simply illustrative of the various ideas we have put forward. We must do more to keep our families and communities safe and we call on you to join us in leading the charge.

Sincerely,



JENNIFER SHILLING
State Senator
32th District



JANET BEWLEY
State Senator
25th District



MARK MILLER
State Senator



16th District

TIM CARPENTER
State Senator
3rd District



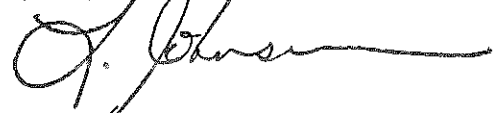
JANIS RINGHAND
State Senator
15th District



JON ERPENBACH
State Senator
27th District



DAVE HANSEN
State Senator
30th District



LATONYA JOHNSON
State Senator
6th District



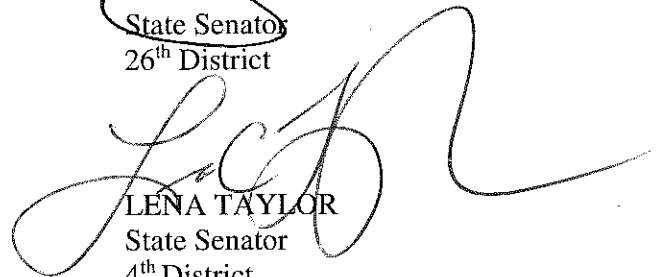
CHRIS LARSON
State Senator
7th District



FRED RISSER
State Senator
26th District



PATTY SCHACHTER
State Senator
10th District



LENA TAYLOR
State Senator
4th District



BOB WIRCH
State Senator
22nd District