



March 13, 2018

Via Hand-Delivery

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

Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Wisconsin State Capitol
211 South
Madison, WI 53703

Speaker Robin Vos
Wisconsin State Capitol
217 West
Madison, WI 53703

Governor Walker, Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Speaker Vos:

The Wisconsin Coalition for Gun Safety (WCGS) is a nonpartisan organization composed of community stakeholders across Wisconsin dedicated to reducing gun violence through community engagement, legislative action, policy reform, and collaboration. We are a diverse coalition that includes law enforcement, health care professionals, parents and community members, community organizations, violence prevention advocates, and faith communities. We ask that you include the attached proposal as part of a Special Session on gun safety, which we urge you to call. These critical policies are comprehensive, evidence-based, and can save lives.

While school safety is an incredibly important piece of the common-sense gun safety conversation, we also need broader changes that make it harder for dangerous individuals to get guns in the first place. We also need greater supports for the emotional and behavioral health of our young people and entire communities.

The epidemic of gun violence is an urgent public health crisis, with 88 people dying every day, including 7 children. Gun violence does not discriminate between rural, urban, or suburban areas of Wisconsin or between Republican and Democratic districts. Though it is too late for the children and staff murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, it is not too late for our children sitting in their classrooms right now. We must take urgent, aggressive action.

We have been in awe of the activism by the youth of Wisconsin on this issue and ask that you follow their lead by enacting meaningful reforms. We are urging you to stand on the side of safety for our children and communities.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin Coalition for Gun Safety

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Jean Papalia
Melissa Stiles, M.D.
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Nat'l Ass'n of Social Workers – WI Chapter
National Physicians Alliance – Wisconsin
Rep. Chris Taylor
Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa
Rep. Lisa Subeck

Rep. Melissa Sargent
Rep. Sony Pope
Rep. Terese Berceau
Sen. LaTonya Johnson
Scott Andersen & Dr. Nicole Andersen
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort
Wisconsin Council of Churches
YWCA