March 13, 2018

Via Hand-Delivery

Governor Scott Walker  Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald  Speaker Robin Vos
Wisconsin State Capitol  Wisconsin State Capitol  Wisconsin State Capitol
115 East  211 South  217 West
Madison, WI 53703  Madison, WI 53703  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  Rep. Melissa Sargent
Jean Papalia  Rep. Sondy Pope
Melissa Stiles, M.D.  Rep. Terese Berceau
Mental Health America of Wisconsin  Sen. LaTonya Johnson
Nat’l Ass’n of Social Workers – WI Chapter  Scott Andersen & Dr. Nicole Andersen
National Physicians Alliance – Wisconsin  Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health
Rep. Chris Taylor  Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort
Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa  Wisconsin Council of Churches
Rep. Lisa Subeck  YWCA