



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Assembly Democrats: The Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention Receives Grade "I" for Incomplete**

*"By failing to comprehensively address suicide by firearm, specifically, by completely ignoring the importance of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, the Task Force's work cannot be considered complete."*

MADISON – Representatives Melissa Sargent, Deb Kolste, Jimmy Anderson, and Jonathan Brostoff, Democratic members of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention, issued the following statement regarding the release of the Minority Report of the Task Force:

"At each of the six hearings held throughout the state, legislators heard about the dangers of firearm access for those at risk, and how important it was to the public that the Task Force on Suicide Prevention take meaningful action on the issue. We heard from mothers who lost sons, and sons who lost mothers. We heard from friends who lost friends, and we heard from individuals who were nearly lost themselves. Each and every one of these heartbreaking stories came with a plea— enact meaningful legislation to limit access to lethal means and to prevent these tragic losses from occurring in our state.

The recommendations released by the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention today have failed to listen to the will of the people throughout these hearings and throughout our state. By refusing to comprehensively address suicide by firearm, specifically, by completely ignoring the importance of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), the Task Force's work cannot be considered complete.

An incomplete grade is unacceptable for the people of our state. We know that suicide rates are increasing in our state. Further, we know that nearly 50% of all suicide deaths in Wisconsin are committed by firearm. Thanks to legislation passed in many other states, we also know have seen the real results that ERPOs have had in reducing suicide rates by firearm and in saving lives. With the alarming increase of suicide rates here in Wisconsin, it is egregious that the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention chose not to move forward with such a critical piece of suicide prevention legislation.

As elected representatives we have a responsibility to lead, and we, members of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention, call on Speaker Vos, Majority Leader Fitzgerald, and the Wisconsin State Legislature, to consider this life saving piece of legislation and to hold a public hearing without delay— in order to save the lives of Wisconsinites."

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