



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

December 7, 2015

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As elected leaders in the Wisconsin State Legislature, we encourage you to investigate and pursue all available options under your executive authority to reduce gun violence that plagues not just Wisconsin, but other states across the nation. Specifically, we urge you to sign an executive order eliminating a loophole that currently allows individuals without a federal license to sell a high volume of guns at gun shows, over the internet, and elsewhere without conducting background checks.

Many major US cities have seen a tragic spike in gun violence in 2015. Shockingly, there have been more mass shootings — defined as incidents in which four or more people are shot — than days in the calendar year. As our homicide rates increase, we must take action to reduce the easy accessibility of weapons in our communities by individuals who should be at high risk of committing these atrocities.

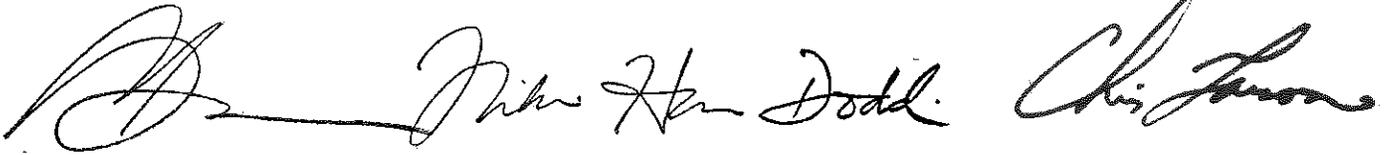
Wisconsin — just like many other states across the nation — has witnessed an appalling surge in homicides in 2015. This spike can be attributed to a variety of factors — prevalent among these is the easy accessibility to firearms through markets and vendors that do not require a background check.

Under current law, licensed gun dealers are required to perform background checks for gun sales, and only those individuals deemed to be "engaged in the business" of dealing in guns are required to obtain a license from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). However, the term, "engaged in the business," needs further clarification, as those who sell guns — even large quantities of guns -- at gun shows, over the internet, or elsewhere are not required to be licensed, and thus, are not required to conduct a simple background check.

Clarifying the definition of "engaged in the business" will help ensure that individuals are unable to exploit ambiguity in current regulation and sell guns at a high volume without conducting background checks and without regulation by the ATF. This change would be a positive step forward in achieving universal background checks, a policy change that roughly 90 percent of Americans support.

Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce gun violence and for your consideration of executive action that could save lives in our state and others across our nation.

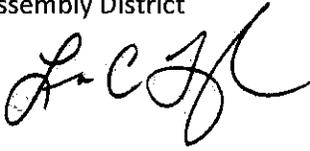
Sincerely,



Mandela Barnes  
Wisconsin State Representative  
11th Assembly District

Nikiya Harris Dodd  
Wisconsin State Senator  
6th Senate District

Chris Larson  
Wisconsin State Senator  
7th Senate District



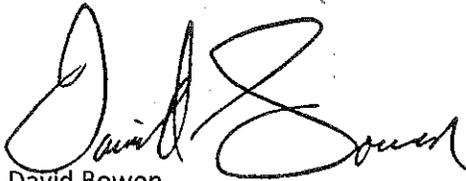
Lena Taylor  
Wisconsin State Senator  
4th Senate District



Janis Ringhand  
Wisconsin State Senator  
15th Senate District



Fred Risser  
Wisconsin State Senator  
26th Senate District



David Bowen  
Wisconsin State Representative  
10th Assembly District



Jonathan Brostoff  
Wisconsin State Representative  
19th Assembly District



LaTonya Johnson  
Wisconsin State Representative  
17th Assembly District

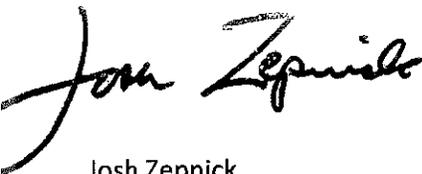


Dana Wachs  
Wisconsin State Representative  
91st Assembly District

Tod Ohnstad  
Wisconsin State Representative  
65th Assembly District



Melissa Sargent  
Wisconsin State Representative  
48th Assembly District



Josh Zepnick  
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80th Assembly District



Jill Billings  
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Terese Berceau  
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46th Assembly District

Debra Kolste  
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44th Assembly District