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SENATOR LENA TAYLOR

a Champion for...

Public Safety & Violence Prevention

Public Safety Laws

Independent Investigation of Officer-Involved Deaths

Lena authored and passed 2013 [Act 348](#)—the first law of its kind in the nation—which requires that investigations of officer-involved deaths be conducted by an independent law enforcement agency. This became law only days before Dontre Hamilton's tragic shooting and ensured that it was investigated by an outside agency.

Shot Spotter Program

As a longtime member of Wisconsin's state budget committee, Lena has strongly supported funding for Shot Spotter, a service that confirms gunfire and lists the precise locations of shots fired. Keeping our community safe is a top priority for Lena, and this effort includes providing community members with precise, up-to-date information about shots fired. That's why Lena authored and passed 2013 Wisconsin [Act 263](#), which provided an extra \$175,000 for this important program. The law more than tripled Shot Spotter in Milwaukee from 3 square miles to 11 square miles.

Mental Health and Cultural Competency Training

Lena has long fought for increased training for police officers. In 2009, she proposed [AB 924](#), a bill to require mental health and cultural competency training for all officers, in order to remove the disconnect between police officers and the people they serve. This training would give officers a better ability to understand the perspectives of people who are different from them, and hopefully avoid such tragic circumstances.

After the tragic death of Derek Williams, who suffocated in the back of a police car instead of being taken to the hospital, Lena renewed her efforts to strengthen police training. She authored and passed 2013

Gun violence has claimed too many lives in Milwaukee and ruined even more. Lena has earned a reputation as one of the biggest advocates for gun safety proposals that will make our streets safer. In her 13 years in the Legislature, she has passed over 100 bills into law.



[Wisconsin Act 214](#), which expanded requirements for police training and increased accountability for officers making an arrest.

Increase Accountability for MPD

In order to increase the Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission's accountability and efficiency and reduce the backlog of complaints from citizens, Lena authored 2007 [SB 390](#), which authorized the board to form three-member disciplinary panels and gave the mayor the power to add representatives from the community. This legislation was added as an amendment to another bill and became law as 2007 [Act 114](#).

Implementing Transformational Police Practices

Lena worked with then Milwaukee Police Chief Nannette Hegerty to implement a policing model from High Point, North Carolina. The program targeted specific gang members in the community with a message: if they wanted to get out, there would be services provided to assist them, but if they continued to commit crimes, the police would focus all of their attention on their gang. The program has been proven effective in reducing crime where it has been implemented.

Taking Guns from Domestic Abusers

Lena passed 2013 [Act 321](#), a law to force domestic abusers to surrender their firearms. Wisconsin was one of the first states to make it illegal to own a firearm while the subject of a domestic violence restraining order, but unfortunately there were no procedures in place to make sure domestic abusers actually gave up their guns. This loophole often led to tragic consequences, as in the terrible shooting at the spa Brookfield, when a man with a restraining order against him shot and killed his ex-wife and two others. [Act 321](#) created procedures for ensuring and verifying that domestic abusers have actually given up their guns.

Lena's Continuing Gun Safety Efforts

Universal Background Checks

Lena proposed 2015 [SB-776](#), which would finally close the private seller loophole and require background checks for all types of gun purchases. We need to make sure that proper checks are being done on anyone who wants to buy a firearm.

Increased Training Requirements for Concealed Carry

Current law doesn't specify important details such as class size or duration when it comes to the training required for a concealed carry permit. Lena proposed legislation to codify these details and creates guidelines about gun handling and safe storage. (2015 [SB-777](#))

Proof of Insurance for Concealed Carry

The mental and physical damage that can be caused by gun violence is very real, and very costly. Lena's proposal would require anyone applying for a concealed carry permit to have proof of insurance to cover damage that may arise from negligent use. (2015 [SB-778](#))

No-Fly, No Buy

Suspected terrorists should not be allowed to buy firearms. Lena's bill would prevent anyone on the FBI No-Fly list from purchasing a gun. (2015 [SB-775](#))

Microstamping

Lena authored 2015 [SB-729](#), which would require all new handguns to have microstamping technology, creating a small "fingerprint" on each bullet fired. This technology would help law enforcement determine the exact gun a bullet was fired from in criminal cases.

"With the right to bear arms comes the responsibility to bear arms safely."

--- Senator Lena Taylor

Concealed Carry & Castle Doctrine

Guns are a controversial topic, but not one Lena hides from. Lena supported legislation to help families protect themselves from violence whether they're at home or in their communities. However, Lena also fought for higher training and safety accountability and common sense policy to keep guns out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them.



Hunting is an important tradition in Wisconsin. Lena supports gun rights, yet she is also a tireless advocate for common sense gun safety reforms.

Opposed the Repeal of the 48-Hour Waiting Period

Last April, Republican legislators introduced [Senate Bill 35](#) to repeal the 48 hour waiting period for handgun purchases. This waiting period was designed to serve as a "cooling off" period in order to reduce the occurrence of impulsive gun violence and suicides. Lena fought to stop this harmful legislation.

Lena Taylor: Experienced leader who fights for public safety.

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