

Andraca introduces two firearm safety bills

MADISON — State Rep. Deb Andraca, D-Whitefish Bay, and legislative colleagues have introduced two firearm safety bills and called for bipartisan support to help prevent gun deaths in Wisconsin.

Andraca's office says the introduction of these bills follows a year of "record firearms sales and increasing rates of suicides and accidental shootings."

"For years our elected leaders have not only failed to respond to gun violence, they refused to even discuss it," said Andraca in a statement. "These bills can save lives in every part of the state, urban and rural, red and blue, and are supported by 80 percent of Wisconsin voters.

"They are consistent with our Second Amendment rights and provide strong due process protections. I urge all my colleagues to come together to support this legislation that will save lives and make all our communities safer."

The first bill would require a background check on all gun purchases in Wisconsin. Under current law, a gun purchased at a licensed firearms dealer is required to run background checks, but a gun purchased online, at a garage sale, or from a private, unlicensed seller does not.

The second bill would create an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO). Nineteen states have ERPO laws, which allow a judge to order guns to be removed from a situation where there is clear evidence of someone in crisis or an individual planning a mass shooting.

Andraca said without an ERPO, if a parent or friend suspects someone has a gun and is at imminent risk for suicide or violence against others, there is no recourse to help prevent such a tragedy before it's too late.

"The Supreme Court has upheld that the right to bear arms does not extend to those who pose a threat to the safety of themselves or others, and states such as Indiana, Florida and Connecticut have used ERPO laws to successfully reduce suicide rates and prevent mass shootings at schools and workplaces," according to Andraca's statement.



Andraca