



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Deb Andraca's Statement Against Reckless Firearm Legislation

MADISON, Wis. -- State Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) made the following statement in advance of today's Assembly session:

"I am state representative Deb Andraca – a mom, a teacher, and a gun owner. I have my concealed carry permit and basic handgun certification, and I support the second amendment and the right to own guns for hunting, sport and personal protection. But I can tell you from personal experience, guns do NOT belong in schools.

As an elementary school teacher, I went through lockdown drills with my students. During a lockdown drill, we gather the students away from doors and windows, sometimes we hide in a closet. We lock the doors and stay absolutely silent. These are occasions that create anxiety and nightmares in students and staff alike, but have become part of our children's school experience.

Once, as a substitute, I was given the wrong key to the classroom. The resource officer burst in and yelled at me in front of my students for not securing the door. When I saw the look of terror on my students' faces, I knew I had to do something. I knew we needed better gun laws to keep our schools and our children safe. I defeated a 14-year Republican incumbent in 2020 on a gun safety platform, and I am here today to fight to keep our students safe at school.

Every single parent I know wants this legislature to pass common-sense gun laws, such as background checks on every gun sale. THAT is what we should be voting on today, but Republican leadership will not even give that bill a public hearing.

Instead, today we will vote on bills that will bring guns to our school grounds. A bill that will allow high school seniors to carry concealed weapons, and a bill permitting people from out of state who would fail a Wisconsin background check to carry guns in our communities.

As a parent, as a teacher, as a citizen, this is terrifying.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, Wisconsin has some of the weakest gun laws in the country. We have no law requiring background checks on every gun sale, our laws protecting victims of domestic abuse are dangerously incomplete, and we have no extreme risk law to remove firearms from potentially dangerous situations. Each of these common-sense measures





WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE FOX POINT GRAFTON MEQUON THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

are bills that have been sitting in a committee for months – but again, Republican leadership refuses to even give these bills a public hearing, let alone a vote in the Assembly.

Poll after poll has shown that Wisconsinites want background checks and other overwhelmingly popular measures to keep our kids and our communities safe. Yet with these bills today, Republicans are putting our schools at risk and prioritizing the convenience of out of state gun owners over the safety of our own citizens.

These bills include:

[AB 495](#) – allows possession of a firearm in a vehicle on school grounds by a licensee to carry a concealed weapon

[AB 498](#) – reduces minimum age to be eligible for a license to carry a concealed weapon to age 18

[AB 597](#) – possession of a firearm by a licensee in a place of worship located on the grounds of a private school

Collectively, these bills before us today would allow high school seniors to carry a loaded gun in a car on school grounds, at school events, and while hanging out with their friends after school. These bills would bring guns into our schools and places of worship. These bills are opposed by parents, students, school leaders, responsible gun owners, church officials, and law enforcement agencies because they put all of us at risk.

Wisconsin's increase in gun violence is driven by two factors: weak laws and easy access to guns. Republicans are promoting a politically-motivated, NRA-approved agenda at the expense of our schools, our kids, and our communities. We call on **all** our colleagues to cultivate a culture of responsible gun ownership, hold public hearings on common-sense gun safety measures, and reject the reckless bills up for a vote in the Assembly today.”

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