



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2022

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Rep. Deb Andraca Stands Against Reckless Firearm Legislation

MADISON, Wis. -- Today the Wisconsin State Assembly voted along party lines to reduce the concealed carry age to 18, to allow guns in cars on school grounds, to permit criminals from other states to carry concealed firearms in Wisconsin, and at the same time voted down a measure that would require background checks on all gun sales.

"These bills are reckless and are opposed by school leaders, churches, law enforcement, and parents everywhere," said State Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) speaking in opposition to bills passed by the Republican majority in the Assembly today.

"Collectively, these bills 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. They invite guns onto our school grounds and places of worship, putting us all at risk."

Andraca, a gun owner who has a concealed carry permit, says she supports the second amendment but that these bills are not what the Wisconsin public wants. "Every single parent I know wants this legislature to pass common-sense gun laws, such as background checks on every gun sale," said Andraca. "That is what we should be voting on today, but Republican leadership will not even give that bill a public hearing"

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

Some of the bills that passed the Assembly today included:

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

"Wisconsin's increase in gun violence is driven by two factors: weak laws and easy access to guns," Andraca continued. "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 by holding public hearings on common-sense gun safety measures, and we urge our Senate colleagues to reject the bills that passed in the Assembly today."

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