



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Deb Andraca

23RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

BAYSIDE BROWN DEER FOX POINT MEQUON RIVER HILLS THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

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Law Enforcement Appreciation Starts With Keeping Officers Safe

Madison, Wis. – Today State Representative Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) gave the following speech on the floor of the assembly as a co-sponsor of AJR 47, recognizing May as Law Enforcement Appreciation month:

“I am proud to co-sponsor AJR 47 in appreciation of our law enforcement professionals and all they do to keep our communities safe. However I feel it is incomplete.

What it leaves out is that 2023 is the deadliest year for Wisconsin police in over two decades. So far this year we have seen the:

- Shooting of Deputy Katie Leising, St. Croix
- Shooting of Officer Emily Breidenbach, Chetek
- Shooting of Officer Hunter Scheel, Cameron
- Shooting of Officer Peter Jerving, Milwaukee

Every death was a shooting. If we truly want to appreciate law enforcement, then let's help protect them.

According to the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, in 2016 50% of officer-involved shootings involved subjects armed with guns. In 2021, officers were confronted with firearms nearly 70 percent of the time.

Acts of appreciation, like this Joint Resolution, are important. But actions speak louder than words.

How can this legislature express appreciation for the men and women in law enforcement when the majority party actively seeks to pass laws that put their lives in danger? It's time for us, here in this room, to step up and do OUR PART to protect the lives of those who serve.

This joint resolution states: people are encouraged to show their support and appreciation of law enforcement by taking various actions, including by sending a card of support, sharing a positive

law enforcement experience, displaying a blue light outside their house, and thanking a local police officer.

Sending a card is nice. But so is holding a public hearing on legislation that would give police officers the ability to temporarily take guns away from people who have been found by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others. This legislation was endorsed by the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association as far back as 2019.

19 other states have developed bipartisan solutions that help reduce both gun homicides and gun suicides. Wisconsin can, too. And it starts here in this room.

I am going to show my appreciation for law enforcement by continuing to fight back against any attempt to make their job more dangerous and put them at risk.

I hope I can count on some of my Republican colleagues to do the same.

