



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

October 6, 2023

Senator Van Wanggaard  
Room 122 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Ron Tusler  
Room 22 West, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Wanggaard and Representative Tusler,

As the co-chairs of the Legislative Gun Safety Coalition and as co-workers in our beautiful Wisconsin State Capitol, we write to you to express our profound concern about this week's open-carry incident. All of us are grateful that no one was hurt, but the incident was extremely unsettling to everyone who works beneath the Capitol dome.

Capitol employees deserve to know that we, as legislators and as employers, are doing everything in our power to ensure their personal safety. There is a bill in your committees that could help law enforcement prevent similar situations and help keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a public safety risk.

AB 350/ SB 352 is a bipartisan bill that would establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order in Wisconsin. An ERPO is a civil order issued by a court when someone is at risk of harming themselves or others. A person who is subject to an ERPO cannot purchase or possess guns while the order is in place.<sup>1</sup>

ERPOs are in place in 21 other states, are modeled after existing domestic violence restraining orders, and have the support of over 80% of Wisconsin voters.<sup>2</sup> Each state has taken a slightly different approach to this legislation and with an open dialogue and a public hearing we are confident that we can arrive at a proposal that protects Wisconsinites' Second Amendment rights and public safety.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/implementERPO>

<sup>2</sup> <https://law.marquette.edu/poll/2023/05/24/detailed-results-of-the-marquette-law-school-supreme-court-poll-may-8-18-2023-2/>



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We call on you as committee chairs to hold a public hearing on this bill and allow Wisconsinites to weigh in on this potentially life-saving legislation. We are happy to answer your questions and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Senator LaTonya Johnson  
Representative Deb Andraca  
Representative Shelia Stubbs