

BAYSIDE BROWN DEER FOX POINT MEQUON RIVER HILLS THIENSVILLE WHITEFISH BAY

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## **Andraca Introduces Campus Firearm Safety Bill**

Madison, Wis. – In an effort to keep Wisconsin college campuses safe, Rep. Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay) introduced a bill today that would prohibit a person from possessing a firearm in a building or on the grounds of a college or university, mirroring other state gun-free school zones.

"Young adults need to feel safe in order to focus on learning," said Andraca. "Students, faculty and staff in higher education deserve the same level of protection under the law as K-12 schools so that they can teach and learn with the peace of mind that firearms are not welcome on campus."

Current Wisconsin law prohibits a person from carrying firearms in certain public buildings, such as police stations or sheriff's offices, prisons or jails, courthouses, and K-12 schools – but it does <u>not</u> apply to Wisconsin's college or university buildings. LRB-2739/1, drafted at the request of the University of Wisconsin-Madison PROFS organization, adds public and private college and university buildings to the list of places where possessing a firearm would be prohibited. It includes specific exemptions for law enforcement officers, military personnel, and participants who are using a firearm in a program approved by the college or university.

In a 2017 <u>Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) survey.</u> 71% of respondents opposed allowing concealed weapons on university campuses. A national <u>2021 survey</u> found that support for carrying concealed weapons on university campuses fell from 36% in 2019 to 27% in 2021.

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