



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

**Reinstate the 48-Hour Waiting Period
By Rep. Gary Hebl**

(MADISON) – Last session, in a misguided move, the Republican majority of the Wisconsin State Legislature passed Act 22, eliminating the 48-hour waiting period for purchasing a handgun. This nearly 40-year old law was wiped out. At the time of passage, I voiced my opposition to this bill’s passing, and it is clear that we must reinstate it. Republicans claim that the waiting period was no longer necessary because background checks can now be done quickly online. However, they fail to acknowledge that not only can this time be spent checking into a person’s background, but it can also serve as a cooling off period for crimes of passion. This period can give potential criminals adequate time to rethink what they had planned to do. As I have stated before, if even one life can be saved by reinstating this 48-hour waiting period, we owe it to our constituents to consider it.

In September of last year, Assembly Democrats, including myself, introduced a bill that would reintroduce this crucial waiting period. It was referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, where it lay dormant until the session ended in late February. Sadly, the Republican majority refuses to even consider the bill, even though it has the potential to save lives.

Although the majority party did not take up the bill this session, I have no doubt that this is an issue that will be coming up again. I will continue to fight for practical solutions to gun violence, and it starts with simple, reasonable steps such as the 48-hour waiting period.

This is an issue that hits home for us. In just the last month, the 46th Assembly District has dealt with the loss of one of its citizens and the injury of another. We simply cannot let these events become a common occurrence, something that we become so accustomed to that we fail to enact and enforce common sense standards. This should not be a partisan issue. These shootings can and do devastate communities. At some point we must stand up and say enough is enough. The time is now. We need to reinstate the 48.

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