



For Immediate Release

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## **Republicans Vote against Universal Background Checks**

*Assembly Democrats bring forward common sense gun safety bill*

MADISON – Today, Assembly Democrats brought Assembly Bill 65 to the floor, which would require universal background checks on all gun purchases. Republicans voted the measure down on a party line vote. This bill has been introduced for the past three legislative sessions since 2013 by Representative Terese Berceau (D-Madison). Currently, background checks are only required under federal law for sales conducted by licensed dealers. This lets criminals and other prohibited purchasers acquire guns — at gun shows or from strangers online — without a background check. Universal background checks are supported by over 90% of Americans. Assembly Democratic Leader Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement on today's floor action.

***“State leaders have an obligation to act on sensible measures aimed at reducing gun violence. Today, Assembly Republicans planted themselves firmly on the wrong side of history.”***

Earlier today, Representative Hintz and his Democratic colleagues were joined by high school students from the Madison area calling for the legislature to act on gun safety measures.

***“The public has had enough ‘thoughts and prayers’. At a time when many national Republicans are calling for sensible background checks, Wisconsin Republicans are content to look the other way, ignore evidenced policy, and do nothing.”***

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