



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislation to Address Ghost Guns Loophole Released

MADISON - Today, Representative Alex Joers and Senator Dianne Hesselbein circulated a proposal to close the ghost gun loophole to keep Wisconsinites safe. On September 19, 2018, the Middleton community fell victim to this loophole when a gunman opened fire in a local workplace. Despite the fact that the gunman was prevented from buying or processing a firearm, he was able to legally assemble the weapon's parts and create an untraceable firearm without a serial number, therefore avoiding the required background check.

This bill is aimed to address the issue of undetectable firearms and possession of a firearm that is not marked with a serial number, to try and prevent what happened in Middleton from ever happening again. Middleton Police Chief Troy Hellenbrand, Representative Alex Joers, and Senator Dianne Hesselbein released the following statement:

Chief Troy Hellenbrand:

“In 2018, the City of Middleton was tragically impacted by the actions of an active shooter who was able to procure firearm parts from the internet. This individual was prohibited from possessing a firearm; however, was able to purchase the required parts to assemble a functioning firearm which they later used against their coworkers, resulting in multiple significant injuries. Middleton is one of many communities who have been impacted in our state and throughout our country by individuals who have been able to easily acquire gun parts and assemble a functioning weapon which are later used to commit crimes in our communities.”

Representative Alex Joers (D-Middleton):

“After the distressing active shooter incident in 2018, we should all feel a great urgency to prevent such an event from ever reoccurring. Active shooter incidents like this one have already impacted many communities across the state and it is our duty as legislators to protect Wisconsin from the threat posed by undetectable firearms.”

Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton):

“We have seen firsthand the dangers of inadequate firearms laws, especially for undetectable ‘ghost’ guns. We are fortunate for the swift action of first responders here but we need to step up and do our job to reduce the threats they and the public face. Unfortunately, the trauma here endures - but the time is now to close the ghost gun loophole.”

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