



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## **Middleton Legislators Reintroduce Ghost Gun Safety Legislation**

MADISON - Senator Erpenbach and Representative Hesselbein are circulating a proposal to close the ghost gun loophole to keep Wisconsinites safe. In September 2018, the Middleton community fell victim to a workplace shooting when a gunman opened fire at WTS Paradigm. According to former Middleton Police Chief Charles Foulke the gunman, Anthony Tong, was ineligible to purchase a firearm. However, Tong was able to legally assemble the weapon's parts and create an untraceable firearm without a serial number, exploiting this loophole.

"We are introducing this legislation to address the issue of undetectable firearms to try and prevent what happened in Middleton from ever happening again," said Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton). "Our community is asking elected leaders to take action on common-sense gun safety measures. Without these policies in place we continue to leave ourselves and our neighbors at risk. What happened at Paradigm is a tragic example of why this cannot wait for another legislative session to pass. We need action on this bill now."

Ghost guns (or undetectable firearms) are described as firearms that are assembled from kits or made with a 3D printer. Ghost guns made in this way may be undetectable by metal detectors and untraceable by law enforcement. Selling gun parts and components that can be used to build a firearm creates a loophole since buyers of unfinished gun parts or components are not required to undergo a background check. Self-assembled firearms can also be ghost guns as they may not come with a serial number, whereas a traditional manufacturer would include this information.

"It's been three years since an active shooter targeted his place of work in Middleton. Yet in those three years we have made zero progress to ensure that no other Wisconsinites are affected by gun violence," said Senator Jon Erpenbach (D-West Point). "We cannot afford to continue to ignore this issue and allow innocent people to die at the hand of firearms. Enough is enough, it is time to do what is right to protect our communities and families."

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