



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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REP. HESSELBEIN STATEMENT ON GOP REFUSAL TO ACT ON GUN SAFETY

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly Democrats offered a motion to force a vote on 2017 Assembly Bill 65 (AB 65) which requires background checks on all gun sales. Wisconsinites have been calling on their elected representatives to take action to prevent tragedies like the recent Parkland, Florida school shooting. After Democrats took action to bring AB 65 to a vote, Assembly Republicans stalled for hours and ultimately voted against moving universal background checks forward.

Wisconsin State Assembly Assistant Democratic Leader Dianne Hesselbein (D – Middleton), a co-author of the legislation, released the following statement in reaction to the vote:

“We all deserve to live free from gun violence in our schools, in our homes, and in our communities. Unfortunately, Republicans made it clear today by voting against common-sense background checks that they simply do not care for the safety and well-being of Wisconsinites.”

According to the FBI, the federal background check system, since its inception in 1998, has stopped over 2.4 million sales to people prohibited from owning a gun. However, current law enables dangerous people, such as felons and domestic abusers, to buy guns from an unlicensed seller without a background check, known as the private sale loophole. Further, a recent Quinnipiac poll shows support for universal gun background checks at a staggering 97 percent.

“People across the country are demanding action from their elected leaders to address gun safety, and requiring background checks on gun purchases is one small, common-sense step we can take to ensure dangerous weapons do not end up in the wrong hands. It is far past time that Republican lawmakers get on board with this live-saving, common sense gun safety measure.”

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