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**WISCONSIN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS, MOMS, MAYORS APPLAUD SENATE FOR PASSING SAFE ACT TO SAVE LIVES, PROTECT WOMEN AND FAMILIES**

*Bipartisan Measure Will Help Law Enforcement Keep Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Abusers*

Wisconsin domestic violence survivors, moms and mayors applauded the State Senate for passing the SAFE Act (AB 464) by unanimous voice vote today. The SAFE Act, a bipartisan bill that will save women's lives and protect families by helping law enforcement keep guns out of the hands of abusers, passed by voice vote in the State Assembly last month. After today's passage in the Senate, it will be sent to the governor to be signed into law.

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it [five times more likely](#) that a woman will be killed – which is why existing law prohibits criminals like rapists and domestic abusers from buying or possessing guns. [But a 2008 study](#) found that 70 percent of Wisconsin counties had no active enforcement procedure to verify that abusers comply with this law.

The SAFE Act would remedy this problem by making sure that abusers who are prohibited under current law from possessing guns are asked about firearms they own or possess, and creating a court process to hold them accountable for complying with the law.

"Five years ago, my ex-boyfriend broke into my mother's house and shot and killed her. Then he shot me and left me for dead," said **Sarah Engle**, a domestic abuse survivor from Marshfield, who testified in support of the SAFE Act before the Assembly Public Safety Committee in November. "I know the devastating effect a gun can have in the wrong hands, and this bill will help make sure other women don't go through what I did."

"We can keep Wisconsin communities, women and families safer if we get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers," said **Anneliese Dickman**, who represents the Wisconsin chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. "Members of Moms Demand Action called and emailed our state senators about the importance of the bipartisan SAFE Act because we know it will save lives – and we are thrilled they approved it unanimously today."

"This bill will save women's lives," said **Mayor James E. Tipple of Wausau**. "The SAFE Act is

just common sense because it gives law enforcement the tools they need to enforce existing laws that prohibit domestic abusers from having guns. I applaud the Assembly, and now the State Senate, for acting in the best interests of Wisconsin women and families.”

The SAFE Act was successfully piloted in Sauk, Waushara, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties and is supported by law enforcement officers and court officials, as well as domestic violence advocates and survivors.

### **About Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to change laws regarding drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to build support for common-sense gun reforms. The nonpartisan grassroots movement of American mothers is demanding new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families. In just one year, the organization has more than 150,000 members with a chapter in every state in the country. The group recently announced it is joining forces with [Mayors Against Illegal Guns](#), the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. For more information or to get involved visit [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org). Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction](https://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandAction) or on Twitter @MomsDemand

### **About Mayors Against Illegal Guns**

Since its creation in April 2006, Mayors Against Illegal Guns has grown from 15 mayors of major American cities to more than 1.5 million grassroots supporters – making us the largest gun violence prevention advocacy organization in the country. The bipartisan coalition, founded by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, has united mayors, gun violence survivors and everyday Americans around these common goals: protecting communities by holding gun offenders accountable; demanding access to crime gun trace data that is critical to law enforcement efforts to combat gun trafficking; and working with legislators to fix weaknesses and loopholes in the law that make it far too easy for criminals and other dangerous people to get guns. The group recently joined forces with [Moms Demand Action](#), the leading grassroots movement of American mothers working to prevent gun violence. Learn more at [www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org) or on Twitter @DemandAction

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