

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators
FROM: Representative Chris Taylor
Representative Melissa Sargent
Representative Lisa Subeck
Representative Terese Berceau
Senator Latonya Johnson
DATE: October 5, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-4465 relating to: prohibiting firearm accessories that accelerate the rate of fire of a semi-automatic weapon and providing a criminal penalty
DEADLINE: **Friday, October 13, 2017**

This bill is also being co-sponsored by State Representatives Anderson, Billings, Bowen, Brostoff, Considine, Crowley, Doyle, Fields, Genrich, Goyke, Hebl, Hesselbein, Hintz, Kessler, Kolste, Mason, Milroy, Ohnstad, Pope, Riemer, Sinicki, Spreitzer, Wachs, Young, Zamarripa, and Zepnick, and State Senators Carpenter, Erpenbach, Hansen, Larson, Miller, Ringhand, Risser, Shilling, L. Taylor.

Local law enforcement support this legislation including Madison Police Chief Michael Koval and Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney. It is also supported by Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort (WAVE), and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (ENDA).

We are introducing LRB-4465 today after reports that the gunman in the recent Las Vegas mass shooting had several “bump stocks” in his possession, and might have affixed them to the firearms he used in firing onto a concert crowd of 22,000. This bill is modeled after legislation introduced yesterday at the federal level by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) to ban the sale and possession of bump stock equipment and devices designed for similar purposes.

LRB-4465 would ban the sale, purchase, possession or use of bump-fire devices. Bump-fire stocks or “bump stocks” are used to modify firearms to effectively fire automatically or in rapid succession. Semi-automatic weapons generally require a trigger to be pulled manually to fire each round; however, by modifying a semi-automatic weapon with a bump stock, the weapon is capable of simulating automatic firing. Bump stocks are attached to the receiver of semi-automatic weapons and use the recoil to propel the weapon backward and bounce it forward, ‘bumping’ the trigger into the unmoving trigger finger, thereby firing the weapon repeatedly. The bill also includes other attachments, devices, or combinations thereof that likewise accelerate the rate of fire for semi-automatic weapons.

We welcome the opportunity to work with our Republican colleagues on this issue, and welcome their support and discussion around this important bill. We are in discussions with Republican leadership. We are very heartened to see bi-partisan support at the national level for a similar bill.

Co-sponsors will be added to both Senate and Assembly versions unless otherwise specified.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Representative Sargent’s Office at 266-0960 or Rep.Sargent@legis.wi.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017.