

March 6, 2018

Governor Walker, Majority Leader Fitzgerald, Minority Leader Shilling, Speaker Vos, and Minority Leader Hintz,

I respectfully ask you call a special session of the Legislature to consider and adopt the attached school safety proposals, which would have an immediate and positive impact on Wisconsin students and schools. The education community developed these items in response to the troubling trend of gun violence that has come to school doors across Wisconsin and the nation.

Adult inaction has spurred students to lead a national discussion around school safety and gun control. These students, which include my six grandchildren, are the first generation to grow up with the threat of gun violence as part of their consciousness and daily lives in school. Our children deserve to feel safe and supported at school. While our kids can lead the conversation, policymakers must be the ones to enact change. The only way we will break the cycle for future generations is through action.

Outlined in the attached agenda are concrete policy solutions addressing physical school environments; behavioral and mental health; school climate and culture; as well as school policies and procedures. These proposals build on successful efforts and direct resources into needed areas. Most importantly, they provide sustainable, flexible funding for local communities to address school safety as they see fit. We must move beyond the divisive and destructive plan of arming our educators. It is not a real solution.

I stand with the youth of our nation, and the growing majority of people in this country, in asking you to take action today. This proposal is only part of the broader effort that must be undertaken to address gun safety and common sense reform. Our students cannot continue to shoulder the burden our inaction.

Our shared work on mental health demonstrates the power of working together. We can take immediate, decisive steps to address school safety today.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers
State Superintendent