# SAFE Act Passes Committee. Your Voice Needed to Keep Momentum

***Unanimous Vote to Keep Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Abusers. Legislators need to make this bill a priority for January session.***

**Call or Email Your Legislators Now**

Since 2000, over 50 people in Wisconsin have been killed by domestic abusers who were legally prohibited from possessing a gun. Some of these abusers had domestic abuse restraining orders issued against them that specifically required them to surrender their guns. Yet, in many Wisconsin counties, no one verifies that abusers actually turn in their guns, which leaves victims at greater risk.

The SAFE Act would ensure that abusers who are banned under current law from possessing guns are asked about firearms they own or possess after they are subject to a restraining order. Abusers who have guns would be held accountable for complying with the law.

After hearing from police, victims and court officials at the public hearing, the Assembly Public Safety Committee unanimously recommended the bill for passage.

**Watch the video below to hear the testimony and learn more about the SAFE Act** (trigger warning)**.**

**Please call or email your legislators and tell them to bring the SAFE Act (AB 464) for a vote in January. *See below for talking points and a sample email*.**

**Talking Points**

- "Hello, my name is ____ and I am a constituent, from [your town or city and program, if applicable]."
- "I urge the Representative or Senator to work to bring the SAFE Act (AB 464) to a vote quickly.
- The bi-partisan legislation creates a procedure so that the laws we already have to protect victims and prevent domestic violence homicides actually work.
- A study found that victims felt safer with these procedures in place and that officials reported the procedures were not burdensome.

**Sample Email**

Dear Representative/Senator **[Name]**:

I am writing to urge you to work to bring the SAFE Act (AB 464) to a vote quickly. My name is **[Your Name]** from **[city and program, if applicable]**.

This SAFE Act (Stopping Abuse Fatalities through Enforcement) will help enforce current laws, which are intended to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. Since 2000, over 50 people in Wisconsin have been shot and killed by domestic abusers who were legally prohibited from possessing a gun.

The SAFE Act will not affect the rights of anyone who is currently allowed to possess a gun. The legislation only creates a procedure to ensure that the current relinquishment requirement is enforced as part of the restraining order process. These procedures have already been successfully piloted in four Wisconsin counties. A study found that victims felt safer with the procedures in place and that officials reported the procedures were not burdensome.

Again, I urge you to work to pass this life-saving legislation.  Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name, City]**

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