

Legislation Aims to Lower Rates of Suicide

Written by Melissa Agard Press
Tuesday, 22 February 2022 11:53 -

<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/depression-suicidebygun-s5.jpg>



Bill introduced Monday would allow individuals to voluntarily “self-exclude” themselves from owning a firearm.

Madison, WI - Monday, State Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) announced new legislation aimed at preventing and reducing suicide in Wisconsin by creating the Firearm Self-Exclusion Program. The program would allow citizens to voluntarily prohibit themselves from purchasing a handgun in Wisconsin. The proposal was modeled after gambling self-exclusion programs in other states like Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. Senator Agard released the following statement:



“This bill provides those who are suffering from suicide ideation or other mental health issues a path forward-- a path of empowerment and safety. We know that [most suicides are carried out by firearm](#). If we can save even one life by passing this legislation, it will be a victory.

“Let me be clear, this bill will not take away anyone’s firearms. It is a purely voluntary program. Those who are fearful of what actions they might take can decide to voluntarily prohibit themselves from possessing a firearm for a period of time, until they feel that moment of crisis has lifted.

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“This is about saving lives. Mental health issues continue to be highly stigmatized, but these honest conversations and innovative public policies can make a difference. We can provide those who are suffering tools that will limit their ability to do harm to themselves or others.”