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# BARBARA DITTRICH

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 38<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release  
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## Wisconsin Incidents Highlight Value of School Resource Officers

**Madison** –Representative Barbara Dittrich (*R-Oconomowoc*) shared her thoughts on the recent crises in Wisconsin schools as well as subsequent, ongoing conversations with school authorities around the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District:

“The school incidents that have taken place this first week of December in Wisconsin highlight the value of our school resource officers (SRO’s),” shared Rep. Dittrich. “The school staff, SRO’s, and students in each of the districts involved are to be commended for remembering their specialized crisis response training. The student at Waukesha South who had the courage to ‘say something when they saw something’ demonstrates how essential it is for each of us to be engaged in public safety.”

“I am proud of the actions taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly, making progress on bipartisan legislation addressing both mental health and firearms in recent floor sessions. Bills promoting peer-to-peer support as well as safe surrender of a firearm for those in a mental health crisis were passed in the November 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly floor session. Work continues to assure safety while respecting law-abiding citizens without violating their 2nd, 5th, and 14th Amendment rights as provided in the US Constitution. California’s November school shooting as well as others in that state clearly demonstrate that the nation’s strictest gun laws will not provide the answer to this problem.”

“A large majority of constituents in my district have expressed their opposition to stricter gun laws. At the same time, everyone agrees that we want our schools, work environments, and communities safe from violence. Dialogue continues to find ways we can reach our mutual goal of security. While none of us likes that this is our new reality, we live in a broken world and must treat this no differently than our response to what happened with the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.”

“Additionally, we must realize that there are no shortcuts to relationships with our kids. We need to dedicate ourselves to teaching our children emotional resiliency and positive conflict resolution at home and beyond. Schools are doing their part. Government is doing its part. Each of us needs to work as a team member to be a part of the overall solution.”

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