



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 24, 2021 Contact: Rep. David Bowen (608) 266-7671

Rep. Bowen Statement on Four Deadly Shootings in Six Hours in Milwaukee

Four Separate Shootings Last Night Left Four Dead, Including Two Teenagers

MILWAUKEE - In response to <u>multiple news reports</u> of four deadly shootings occurring over the course of six hours in Milwaukee yesterday evening, State Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement:

"I am heartbroken at the continued loss of life in our community. Yesterday evening, Milwaukee experienced four separate deadly shootings in six hours across our city, including one fatal shooting right here in the 10th Assembly District. And today, four families are grappling with a future in which their loved ones, including two teenage youth, will not be around to reach their potential. These shootings, and every single incident of gun violence in our community are tragedies, and we must find a way to end this violence in our neighborhoods and the systems that create these cycles of violence in the first place.

I am forever grateful to the organizations and individuals on the ground working to combat and prevent violence and uplift our communities. For instance, just this past weekend we witnessed the Grand Opening of the Institute for the Preservation of African-American Music and Arts, the Harvest MKE community gas, food, and clothing giveaway event partnership between Kingdom Faith Fellowship Church and Cross Way Church, and the annual ComForce MKE charity basketball game in honor of two victims of gun violence, but I know full well that organizations and community partners like these can't do it alone. As I've said many times before, we need to commit to fully funding violence prevention and interruption programs, mental health programs, and neighborhood programming, initiatives, and investments not just in Milwaukee but across our state, and I am committed to fighting for legislation that I have previously introduced to fund those programs as well as further legislation yet to be introduced this Session and beyond.

But legislation and better funding can't solve these issues if members of our communities continue to choose to settle disputes with weapons instead of words. No argument is worth a human life! While I and other elected officials continue to do everything we can to ensure that violence prevention, interruption, and mediation services are funded and easily accessible, we need *everyone*'s help to ensure that our neighbors are being reminded that violence is never the way and that we, all together, can make our neighborhoods and communities safe!"
