

**2025 RES-054**

**RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS  
IN DANE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, June is recognized as National Gun Violence Awareness Month to educate people about the public health crisis of gun violence and the need to prevent gun violence and its lasting impacts in our communities and across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of gun violence touch every corner of our community, with an average of 38 Dane County residents losing their lives to firearms each year—approximately 80% to suicide, and the remainder to homicide and accidental shootings; and

**WHEREAS**, in Wisconsin, an average of 69 children and teens die by guns every year, with 61% through homicides and 33% through suicide. Even in the absence of death or injury, exposure to gun violence has an impact on the psychological and mental well-being of young people and affects their school performance, relationships, and health, among other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing gun violence requires a comprehensive, evidence-informed approach that includes prevention, intervention, education, and community engagement. These efforts must also recognize the growing impact on youth. Firearms became the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in the U.S. by 2020. In 2023, the firearm death rate among youth increased by 46%, with the rise among Black and Latino children and teens. In 2023, Black youth faced a firearm death rate more than four times higher than their white peers. These disparities highlight the urgent need for youth-centered prevention and trauma-informed support; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Health Madison & Dane County has declared gun violence a public health emergency and leads local prevention efforts to reduce gun deaths and injuries through data analysis, violence prevention programming, and community partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board recognizes and commends the leadership of Students Demand Action, a youth-led movement at the forefront of gun violence prevention advocacy. In Wisconsin, Students Demand Action has organized peer-led education efforts, raised awareness through public events, and advocated for evidence-based legislation such as the recently introduced “Safer Summer” bill package. This proposed legislation includes establishing an Extreme Risk Protection Order process, expanding background checks, and strengthening firearm storage laws. These student leaders continue to call for a safer future through civic engagement, public testimony, and organizing in their schools and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board also acknowledges the impactful efforts of organizations such as Moms Demand Action and Focused Interruption, whose work strengthens community-driven approaches to advancing safety and resilience.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors commits to supporting and investing in public health-led and community-driven efforts to prevent gun violence, partnering with Public Health Madison & Dane County to expand violence prevention, education, intervention, and support services countywide.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Public Health Madison & Dane County, the City of Madison, and the Governor of Wisconsin, affirming Dane County's commitment to ending gun violence and promoting a culture of safety for all.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk