

Thoughts and Prayers for Gun Safety in Our 2023-2025 Budget

With the recent tragic shooting of Wisconsin police officers from Chetek and Cameron, our state has not escaped the onslaught of seemingly endless gun violence in our nation. After these most recent multiple shootings here, and indeed all previous ones nationally, I again send my condolences, thoughts and prayers. My condolences go to the victims' families and friends while my thoughts and prayers go to lawmakers, including those who formulate policies through budgets.

My thoughts are that it's time you elected legislators serve your district constituents rather than your American Legislative Exchange Council, National Rifle Association, and gun-manufacturer constituents. Enact laws and budgetary provisions now which make our communities safer by imposing licensure for gun ownership in ways similar to vehicle ownership and, at the very least, by restricting possession of assault weapons to authorized personnel.

My prayers are that if you regard yourself as a Christian, a Judeo-Christian, or another faith-based human being, you will behave according to the tenets which respect lives, including especially respect for lives over weapons. Budgets reflect and express values and priorities so I urge you to prioritize budgetary commitments that promote gun safety and gun restrictions to demonstrate valuing lives.

I am not a member of a "well regulated militia" and I do not own a musket but I do support the US Constitution, including its Second Amendment. However, I do not emotionally or irrationally over-interpret that amendment to mean unrestricted ownership of guns because I realize that "the right of the people [a collective term] to keep and bear arms" is not violated even when some individuals are prohibited from keeping and bearing arms.

I implore you to provide budgetary and other legislative actions to ensure gun safety and protect all Wisconsin citizens from any further needless and senseless gun violence.

Mike Lindsay

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