

GWEN MOORE
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS REGIONAL WHIP



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2245 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4572
FAX: (202) 225-8135

DISTRICT OFFICE:
219 NORTH MILWAUKEE STREET
SUITE 3A
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5818
(414) 297-1140
FAX: (414) 297-1086

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

July 11, 2014

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing this letter to make you aware of a recent spike in gun violence in the Milwaukee area, and ask for any assistance and resources you are able to provide to help. As of June 16, 2014, thus far this year, 30 children have been shot in Milwaukee, 185 total nonfatal shootings have taken place, and 30 homicides have been committed. According to data from the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission, there has also been a spike of recent gun violence. Specifically, 78 individuals have been victimized between May 18 and June 15, with 71 percent of the victims falling between 18 and 34 years of age. Seventy-four percent of the suspects range between 18 and 34 years of age.

As you can imagine, community leaders and many of my constituents are concerned that we could experience a trend of violence continuing through the summer months in Milwaukee. Youth gun violence is particularly troublesome to me, because it not only snatches away the hopes and dreams of so many of our children, but it also devastates the families, friends, and neighbors who bear witness to our children being killed or taken from us. Moreover, the loss of our children to gun violence snuffs out our potential for so many talented youth who would be great contributors to our city and the country as a whole. We must put every option on the table to immediately halt this senseless violence that is plaguing our community.

I am asking that the Department of Justice (DOJ) do everything in its power to assist Milwaukee in its efforts to reduce and stop gun violence. For example, it is my understanding that the Bureau of Justice Assistance has in the past granted emergency funding resources to assist localities facing a significant increase in the incidence of gun violence. Any such resources or related assistance would be instrumental in helping Milwaukee in its effort.

Furthermore, I respectfully request that the DOJ does everything it can to partner with our law enforcement agencies currently on the ground in Milwaukee. It is also my understanding that the Bureau of Justice Assistance can offer training and technical assistance. These evidenced-based practices can greatly assist our policing efforts to reduce gang violence and bolster overall strategies to most effectively combat crimes. Lastly, I thank you for any efforts you have already made, and I encourage the DOJ to continue to work closely with our community stakeholders in identifying any other resources that can be helpful in these endeavors.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwen Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS