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Kaufert Renews Call to Strengthen Drunk Driving Laws

Legislation would require use of ignition interlock device for repeat offenders

For Immediate Release

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MADISON – Rep. Dean Kaufert (R – Neenah) is renewing his call to strengthen Wisconsin’s drunk driving laws in light of a recent study ranking Wisconsin at the bottom nationally for admitted cases of people driving while intoxicated. A bill authored by Kaufert and Rep. Tony Staskunas this session would have required the use of an ignition interlock device for a person convicted of a second or higher drunk driving offense (AB 733).

“We need to get serious about reducing drunk driving,” said Kaufert. “I am saddened by the continuing stories I read and hear of people being injured and even killed by drunk drivers. Penalty enhancers for fifth, sixth, and on up offenders just isn’t good enough. We need to crack down on repeat offenders right away to ensure that our roadways are safe for innocent motorists and pedestrians.”

The bill received a positive committee hearing in the Assembly Judiciary Committee, but did not make it through the entire legislative process before the end of session. Kaufert plans to reintroduce the bill again at the beginning of next session and make its passage a top priority. The use of ignition interlock devices has been shown to decrease OWI recidivism by up to 70 percent.

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