



# DAVID STEFFEN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Steffen Introduces Blue Lives Matter Legislation** *Proposal creates hate crime protections for law enforcement officers*

**Madison**—Today, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) formally introduced Blue Lives Matter legislation for consideration in the legislature. If enacted, the legislation would expand Wisconsin’s definition of a hate crime victim to include law enforcement officers. In Wisconsin, a hate crime is a penalty enhancer, which allows for additional fines and imprisonment if the victim is targeted based on any of the protected classes within the hate crime law.

“I am excited to begin this new session by introducing a proposal that strongly echoes Wisconsin’s dedication to protecting and supporting our law enforcement officers. I am confident that this proposal, which has garnered bipartisan support in other states, will similarly resonate with residents across our state,” said Rep. Steffen.

In a memo to his colleagues, Rep. Steffen cites the increasing rate at which officers have become targets of ambush-style assaults, noting that such attacks increased by 163% from 2015 to 2016. The surge of hateful targeted attacks prompted Rep. Steffen to join other states in crafting legislation focused on enhancing protections for law enforcement officers.

“Our officers willingly and knowingly put themselves in harm’s way every day in order to protect our communities. Sadly, over the past year the risks of this profession have gone far beyond the expected, as our officers have increasingly become victims of hateful targeted attacks. This proposal sends a message that these vicious targeted assaults will not be tolerated and that Wisconsin proudly supports our brave officers,” said Rep. Steffen.

Wisconsin’s Blue Lives Matter proposal has garnered the support of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association, Badger State Sheriffs’ Association, FBI Agents Association, and the Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin.

The bill is currently being circulated for co-sponsorship support prior to moving forward for a committee hearing.

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