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State Senate Passes Sen. Jacque's Reform Bills

Unanimous bi-partisan support for bills to combat sex trafficking and child pornography, add patient protections for step therapy, and help charitable groups

Madison, WI- Yesterday the Wisconsin State Senate passed three bills authored by Senator André Jacque (R-De Pere). Senator Jacque made the following comment regarding the legislation:

"I'm honored to advocate for my neighbors in Northeast Wisconsin on the issues important to us. I appreciate the unanimous bi-partisan support of my colleagues during yesterday's session on a number of bills I've brought forward to protect children and human trafficking victims, assist charitable organizations, and remove barriers to lifechanging treatment for those who need it most," said Senator Jacque.

"Senate Bill 46 reduces demand for sex trafficking and prostitution by significantly increasing the current insufficient financial penalties as a deterrent. All funds resulting from the created surcharge are directed toward both building critical capacity for victim services and rehabilitation, and to investigating internet crimes against children and resources to apprehend traffickers.

Senate Bill 68 combats a significant vulnerability within Wisconsin's child exploitation statutes identified by prosecutors and Internet Crimes Against Children investigators. The bill closes the loophole by codifying case law, clarifying definitions and including "child erotica" as pornography.

Paddlewheel raffles, including meat raffles as a popular variation, are widespread across Wisconsin as means of revenue for many sportsmen's clubs, civic and veterans organizations, and churches that already hold or are eligible for a Class B raffle license. Unfortunately, the Wisconsin Department of Justice has deemed paddlewheel raffles to be illegal gambling under current law and harassed such groups. Senate Bill 43 is common sense legislation to allow the popular use of paddlewheel raffles for charitable groups to continue in Wisconsin so that groups are not unknowingly committing a felony level offense, similar to what has already occurred in Minnesota where the games are also popular."

In addition to the three above bills, the State Senate passed Senate Bill 26, the step therapy reform bill.

"Senate Bill 26 will make it easier for patients to access the critically needed and most appropriate prescribed medications for their conditions without being forced to try and fail less expensive options, especially when imposed step therapy protocols have already been used unsuccessfully under a different insurance provider or are likely to have side effects that would likely imperil the life and health of the patient," Senator Jacque said.

All 4 bills passed with unanimous, bi-partisan support.

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