



# EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 652

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety for hearing Assembly Bill 652 today.

Current law provides a victim of a crime the right, if he or she wishes, to be notified of events such as when an offender applies for and has a hearing for release to parole or extended supervision, sentence adjustment, or conditional release through the use of a simple card request system.

Assembly Bill 652, and its senate companion bill, Senate Bill 377, adopts this same simple card request system to provide crime victims the option to be notified when an offender's release to parole or extended supervision is revoked for violating a condition of release.

Because victims of crime can live in fear of their offenders, this bill would enhance Wisconsin's current victim's rights by providing some degree of relief regarding the whereabouts of offenders, particularly in cases of violent crimes.

I respectfully request your recommendation for passage of Assembly Bill 652 at your next executive session.



# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

## Testimony of State Senator Lena C. Taylor

Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety

January 14, 2016

### Assembly Bill 652

Chairman Kleefisch and members of the committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important piece of legislation. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, victims can face three different types of trauma; physical, financial and emotional.

This is actually a very simple bill. Assembly Bill 652 will give crime victims additional peace of mind and assist in their emotional recovery. In a 2013 report, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Statistical Analysis Center collected crime data reported to Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in the previous year. I believe their findings highlight the importance of Senate Bill 377. They found:

- 15,969 violent crimes reported in Wisconsin in 2012, including murders, forcible rapes, aggravated assaults and robberies.
- 139,102 property crimes reported in Wisconsin in 2012, including thefts, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and arson.
- Senators, if you just consider sexual assault alone, someone in America is sexually assaulted every two minutes. And for those assaulted in Wisconsin, we can help give them peace of mind.

Current law allows crime victims to be notified when the offender who victimized them is released on parole, but it does not permit them to be notified when their parole is revoked. Assembly Bill 652 addresses this gap by allowing victims to be notified when the offender is sent back to prison. This will help alleviate victims' fear that their offender is out on the streets and help restore a sense of safety.



# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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This is one of two Victims Rights bills I am working on. The second bill would provide victims notification of the programming their offender is undergoing while incarcerated. It is my intention to introduce that bill in the coming days.

Thank you for giving this bill a public hearing. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and I hope this committee will schedule this bill for an executive session at our next meeting, so that it may get to the floor before the end of session.