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## Luther S. Olsen

State Senator  
14th District

### Testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 11 June 6, 2013

#### Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

Thank you Chairman Petrowski and committee members for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 11 which relates to notification requirements for registered sex offenders who are on school premises. It was my pleasure to co-author this bill with Representative Joel Kleefisch. Consequently, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this legislation and the time the committee is investing.

Under current Wisconsin law, subject to certain exceptions, an individual must register with the Department of Corrections (DOC) as a sex offender if he or she has been convicted of certain sex offenses. These individual registrants must provide certain information to the Department of Corrections and periodically supply updated information to the Department if the information originally provided to the registry changes.

Assembly Bill 11, also known as the School Safe Bill, requires the registrant to notify the School District Administrator or his or her designee of the individual's intent to enter any school premises. With some exceptions, the registrant must notify them of the specific date, time and place of their intended visit. There are several exceptions to this legislation.

Under this bill, a parent of a child that is enrolled at the school is required to notify the District Administrator or his or her designee, once an academic school year, that he or she is a registered sex offender and that the registrant has a child enrolled at the school. This will allow a parent to continue their routine throughout the school year without hindrance.

Two further exceptions allow registrants to enter the school premises if an event or activity that is not sponsored by the school is held and to vote if the school premises are the registrants polling location.

Under this proposal, an individual, who knowingly violates the notification requirements, would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 9 months, or both. A second or subsequent offense would be considered a Class H felony.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I take the safety of children on school property very seriously. As a Father, I believe there is an innate instinctual need to keep children safe. Failing to keep children safe is not an option. The legislation will provide a layer of knowledge for the school, to be used as a tool to protect children.

Finally, the School Safe Bill received bipartisan support from the Assembly, passing in a 95-1 vote. I look forward to voting yes on this legislation if the committee chooses to send it to the floor.