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## March 21, 2013: Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice Assembly Bill 11

Thank you, Vice Chairman Spiros and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice, for being here this morning to discuss Assembly Bill 11, relating to notification requirements for registered sex offenders who are on school premises. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to speak on the bill.

Under current Wisconsin law, if an individual has been convicted of certain sex offenses, in most cases they are required to register with the Department of Corrections (DOC) as a sex offender. An individual required to register as a sex offender shall provide specific personal identifying information to the Department, as well as proactively provide the Department with updates, should any of the original information change.

Assembly Bill 11 provides that an individual required to comply with the sex offender reporting requirements must notify either the school district administrator or the governing body of the school as to the specific date, time, and place of their intended visit to any *school premises*. The bill maintains the current statutory definition for *school premises*, which includes any school building, all school grounds, recreation areas, athletic fields, or any other property owned, used or operated for school administration.

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.

This bill provides that, parents with children enrolled in school, who are also required to comply with the sex offender reporting requirements, are responsible for notifying the school of their registry status at specific times, as outlined in the bill. Correctly following these notification requirements will allow the parent to come and go throughout the course of the school year, or so long as their child is enrolled.

Finally, it is important to note two specific exceptions to the proposed notification requirements I have just described. An individual registered with DOC as a sex offender, would **not** be required to notify the governing body of a school if they are on a school premises for the purposes of voting *or* if they are on the school premises for the purposes of attending an event that is not sponsored by the school.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak on Assembly Bill 11, I am happy to answer any questions you have.