



DAVID CRAIG

STATE SENATOR

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
Public Hearing, January 16, 2018
Senate Bill 612
Senator David Craig, 28th Senate District**

Dear Chairman Wanggaard and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking testimony on Senate Bill 612 relating to the expansion of the public portal of the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP). As crime in Wisconsin escalates out of control, prosecutors and judges in southeastern Wisconsin continue to systemically undercharge and impose weak sentences on criminals. State law offers a wide range of charging and sentencing options to keep these criminals off our streets, however local prosecutors and judges are coming up short.

Senate Bill 612 will give citizens, the media, and the legislature better information on criminal acts, how district attorneys charge, the extent of plea deals given, and whether or not judges are levying sentence fitting of the crimes being committed. The people of Milwaukee and around the state deserve to know their elected officials in the justice system are performing as expected. This bill will also give the legislature additional information that can be used to craft additional legislative remedies in the future. This is a simple open government proposal that would expand information already collected on the backend of CCAP and make it available to the public.

This legislation is part of my package of legislation along with Senate Bill 611 to increase public access to information in the criminal justice system and allow the public to fully track the prosecution and punishment of criminals.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important piece of legislation. I am happy to take any questions from committee members.



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Rep. Sanfelippo Public Testimony on the Senate Bills 611 and 612

Senator Wanggaard and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify on Senate Bills 611 and 612. Both of these bills are aimed at introducing more transparency into our criminal justice system.

Over the course of the last two sessions, Senator Craig, Senator Vukmir, and I have been carefully studying the alarming increase in crime rates throughout the state and, in particular, the southeast region. Throughout this process, we have spoken with law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, department of correction officials, and public defenders. In all of these conversations, two things have become very clear: the lack of information readily available to lawmakers is inadequate and the transparency of the criminal justice system is obscure at best.

Senate Bill 611 increases the reporting requirements for crimes committed with a firearm, the manufacture, distribution, or delivery of marijuana and the theft of motor vehicles.

Senate Bill 612 increases the transparency of our criminal justice system by shining a light on the arrests and charges filed for crimes by county, the judge assigned to the case, all cases adjudicated by the judge, the criminal charge filed, whether the case resulted in a conviction, and any penalty that may have been imposed.

The additional information brought into the light of day by these two bills can be used by legislators for consideration of future laws aimed at protecting our citizens from violent crimes and the spread of illegal drug distribution, as well as increasing the public's awareness of which crimes are charged in their communities and how those crimes are adjudicated.

I hope you will join us in supporting these two bills.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Sanfelippo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.