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*Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
State Senator André Jacque  
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Chairman Spiros and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Thank you for holding this hearing on the Interlock Diversion Act.

We all know that ignition interlocks work. Wisconsin leads the country in the number of drunk drivers stopped by ignition interlock devices. Interlock devices are tamper proof, require repeated use while driving, and provide an opportunity for a second chance.

A part of the solution is the Interlock Diversion Act, which is bi-partisan legislation modeled after Texas law. How it works is anyone with a first time OWI charge that resulted in no injury and blew below a 0.15 would be eligible for their conviction to be expunged after a successful completion of at least six months of alcohol monitoring. Keeping public safety in mind, the court has the authority to deny such a petition should they find that granting it is not consistent with the public interest.

This bill not only makes the state safer for those of us on the roads, but provides an opportunity for an OWI to be a lesson to be learned from. The first OWI is a critical intervention opportunity, and it's time we provide incentive to break the habit.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this bill, and I look forward to your questions.



# CHRIS LARSON

## STATE SENATOR

### **Testimony regarding Assembly Bill 211 Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Safety August 22, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Sprios and members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Safety for considering Assembly Bill 211 in today's hearing. This piece of legislation aims to prevent repeat drunk driving incidents by providing an incentive for the installation of ignition interlock devices (IID) or a body worn alcohol detection device for first time offenders convicted of operating while intoxicated (OWI).

Current Wisconsin statute compels an individual convicted of their first OWI to install an IID in their vehicle if their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is greater than .15. There is no such mandate for individuals whose BAC is below that threshold.

AB 211 closes the gap by offering an incentive for first time OWI offenders to install an ignition interlock device or wear an alcohol monitoring device. Under the specific directions outlined in the legislation, an individual who had a blood alcohol concentration of .15 or less and voluntarily complies with alcohol monitoring could be eligible to have their public record of conviction expunged after 6 months.

According to the Department of Transportation, nearly 40% of first time OWI offenders reoffend, resulting in a perpetual public safety issue. The use of IIDs has shown to be successful in changing offenders' behavior. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, IIDs reduce drunk driving recidivism by 67%. Moreover, from December 1, 2006 to December 31, 2018 IIDs have prevented 302,181 attempts at drunken driving right here in Wisconsin. This legislation offers a voluntary mechanism to reduce drunken driving on our roads.

Our neighbors across the state have already voiced their strong concerns against drunk driving and have called on legislators to move forward with real solutions. We must end Wisconsin's culture of drinking and driving by creating an avenue that actually changes behavior. AB 211 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your time and consideration.