



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

STATE SENATOR

Chairman Plumer and Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to hear Assembly Bill 858.

Wisconsin has experienced a significant rise in opioid and methamphetamine related deaths over the last decade. The State as a whole has experienced significant social and financial costs due to the opioid epidemic.

The Wisconsin Legislature has passed 30 different bills that have been signed into law addressing the opioid crisis. In fiscal year 2018 alone, state and federal dollars exceeded \$95 million towards programs aimed at curbing the opioid and illicit drug epidemic. These programs have provided much needed support to many communities throughout the State.

Last year, Wisconsin saw a 10% decrease in opioid related deaths. This is positive news, however it is unclear which specific programs or initiatives initiated this decline.

Assembly Bill 858 establishes an opioid and methamphetamine data system to measure the effectiveness of existing programs. Under the bill, the Department of Administration (DOA) is required to collaborate with and collect data from state and local agencies regarding opioid and methamphetamine use in Wisconsin.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million to DOA to create the data system, and requires the agency to submit this proposal to the Joint Finance Committee for review prior to implementation.

DOA will serve as the primary administrator of the portal. They will be responsible for determining, collecting and analyzing performance measurement data assessing overdoses, prescribing behaviors, drug trafficking, drug-related arrests and law enforcement resource allocation. Starting in 2022, DOA is required to submit a report to the Joint Finance Committee analyzing these data trends from year to year.

Assembly Bill 858 will help policymakers better understand the effectiveness of current initiatives so that taxpayer funds can be spent on those strategies and interventions that will have the greatest impact on reducing the negative outcomes of opioid and illicit drug abuse in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer questions.



JON PLUMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony – **AB 858** – Relating to opioid and methamphetamine data system

Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention

Thursday, January 6, 2020

Throughout the past year, I have spent a lot of time and energy focused on learning as much as I possibly can about the opioid crisis and addiction. The biggest thing I have learned is that this issue is far more complex than I had ever imagined and that I have a lot more to learn.

Part of this learning process has been looking at data. This data comes from various sources and is housed in various places. When we make laws to curb substance abuse, it is helpful to know the statistics to find out if laws we put in place are effective or not. It is also helpful to know where in the state people are abusing which substances and the trends associated with each substance, whether it be opioids, meth, heroin, or others.

AB 858 directs DOA to collect data from multiple state agencies and work with a company to create a central location for data related to substance abuse to be housed. Once the data is collected and compiled into a central database, DOA will be in charge of distributing this data when requested.

Other states have used a similar model to compile their substance abuse data and it has been a huge help to law enforcement to understand trends in crimes related to substance abuse and where to place their law enforcement officers. As a lawmaker interested in curbing this epidemic, having a central location to find information about how our laws are being used and if they are effective or not would be a big help. This can all be accomplished while still ensuring that peoples' privacy is protected.

If you have questions regarding how the actual database works, we have industry experts here today to explain that in detail.

Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to be before your committee.

My name is Steve Sachs, I am the manager of the US Public Sector Unit at SAS. My responsibility includes managing our partnership with the State of Wisconsin and our team dedicated to Wisconsin, where SAS is an active partner at six agencies (DOA, DCF, DHS, DOR, DOR, DNR).

With over 14,000 employees, SAS is the global leader in analytics in terms of both market share and validated by independent analysts.

I am also someone, who like most these days, has been impacted by the illicit drug crisis. As I watched a sibling go through a severe crisis with heroin, meth, and other illicit drug addiction for a decade, I witnessed first hand the devastation we read about and see on the news -- yet again just a couple of days ago on the east side of Madison. Today, my sibling is doing well, thanks to intervention and self determination.

Wisconsin is home to a PDMP system that has been recognized nationally and members of this committee should be commended for the role you have played in this system.

Yet, PDMP opioid prescription data alone doesn't paint a full picture -- especially as we look at the emerging meth problem and preparing for whatever substance might present the next challenge. A multifaceted approach to combating our crisis includes aggregating and analyzing data scattered across numerous government agencies.

Today, SAS is providing analysts across the nation the ability to take advantage of more sophisticated methods that include rule-based code such as the toolkit Dr. Kearney mentioned-- and more advanced data integration, anomaly detection and advanced analytics.

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To be more effective in combating the epidemic, states need the ability to continuously monitor behavior to more quickly intervene and proactively investigate. This is why as the global leader in analytics, I am really honored to be here in support of this very strong public policy.

SAS is not the only business entity who provides data analytics. Should this policy be enacted, there are likely other entities who will be interested in competing for the opportunity to partner with Wisconsin on this critical project. In full transparency, SAS would likely be one of these entities. In reviewing the legislation before you, the system you are seeking will be powerful and once **currently available** and **existing data** is integrated, should be able to perform actions such as:

- Uncovering early signs of addiction or warning signs by looking at data.
- Anticipating and deterring drug trafficking by more quickly identifying suspicious patterns.
- Coordinating treatment by providing insights directly to physicians and prescribers so they can make well-informed decisions at the point of patient care.
- Providing timely reports to policymakers such as yourself

Of course, data privacy is critical and any system that is implemented must be the gold standard in security. Best practices for this include role based permissions so the right people see the appropriate information, the most secure hosting environments, and of course wholly protecting the security of Wisconsinites.

I am happy to answer to any questions you may have.



Wisconsin Troopers' Association

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TO: Chairman Plumer and Members
Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention

FR: Dan Restrepo
Wisconsin Troopers' Association

DA: February 6, 2020

RE: Support of Assembly Bill 858, relating to opioid and methamphetamine data systems

Good morning Chairman Plumer and members of the Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention. Thank you for holding a public hearing and for the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 858. My name is Dan Restrepo and I am a member of the Wisconsin Troopers Association (WTA). I have been an officer with the State Patrol for more than 5 years and work primarily in Green Lake County.

The Wisconsin Troopers' Association (WTA) is comprised of more than 500 troopers, inspectors and police communication operators (PCOs) that have a shared commitment and vision to make Wisconsin safer for its citizens and tourists.

We all know the opioid and illicit drug epidemic is severely impacting Wisconsin citizens from all walks of life. Troopers and other law enforcement across Wisconsin are no longer encountering impaired drivers, also known as "drugged drivers," exclusively during the normal late-night hours. We are experiencing impaired drivers and drug overdoses on a daily basis at all times in all areas of Wisconsin.

Personally, my recent experiences with opioid or meth cases include:

- Impaired driver barreling through a construction zone, zig-zagging across traffic prior to my ability to make a stop
- Helped perform CPR and administer Narcan to an individual who didn't survive
- Responded to emergency overdose where family member had administered Narcan, but I had to continue CPR and individual survived
- And just last week an individual using meth slid off the highway into a ditch; tow truck driver contacted law enforcement suspecting impairment and I confirmed it was meth along with other illicit drugs; both driver and passenger were severely impaired

My colleagues and I are encountering the use of opioids, meth and other illicit drugs in every corner of the state. I work in a very rural area and most of my interactions have been traffic-related incidents. However, one of my colleagues indicated that he is oftentimes a first responder to overdose incidents in gas station bathrooms, parking lots and other businesses that are located near highways. Users are obtaining their drugs and immediately using them, resulting in some local gas stations putting up signs saying their bathroom is out of order in order to prevent overdoses in them.

The men and women of the State Patrol record every time we respond to a scene and utilize Narcan on an individual. Allowing other affected agencies to access this information will create better collaboration and therefore more success in combating this epidemic.

This legislation will create a central repository for data on critical aspects of the opioid and meth epidemic. Using data, we will be able to make decisions about where to place resources to combat this problem from a law enforcement perspective.

We support this bill and its plan to use a central data base that collects, formats, analyzes, and disseminates opioid and meth data. We would again like to thank the authors Rep. Plumer and Senator LeMahieu and the co-sponsors for their efforts to move this important legislation forward. I hope the committee will support this legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.