

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 510
Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government
Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

Hello, and thank you Chairman Plumer and members of the Assembly Committee on Transportation for allowing me to share my testimony with you regarding Assembly Bill 510, which designates the overpass on State Highway 13 over U.S. Highway 10 as the Deputy LaVonne Zenner Memorial Bridge.

Earlier this year, the Wood County Sheriff's Department reached out to me in the hopes of designating a memorial to Deputy LaVonne Zenner. Deputy Zenner was an active member of the Marshfield community who joined law enforcement as a career change. She was employed as a reserve deputy for Wood County, then became a deputy for the city of Pittsville, and finally was hired as a full-time deputy for the Wood County Sheriff's Department. Unfortunately, three weeks into her training with the sheriff's department, Deputy Zenner was traveling to meet her field training officer when she was involved in a car accident. She was in full uniform at the time. The crash occurred on August 3, 1989. She was 39 years old and left behind a son, daughter and husband.

Deputy Zenner was one of the few females in a male dominated field in the 80's and many community members still remember the dedication that she had to serving the community. There is a plaque at the Wood County Sheriff's Department in her honor. Beyond this acknowledgment, we want ensure that Deputy Zenner's commitment to serve her community is never forgotten by designating the overpass on State Highway 13 over U.S. Highway 10 as the Deputy LaVonne Zenner Memorial Bridge.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of this bill, and I welcome any questions you might have.



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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Transportation

AB 510

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Thank you Chair Plumer, Vice-Chair Spiros, and members of the Transportation Committee for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 510, regarding the marker for the memorial bridge honoring Deputy LaVonne Zenner. As a Wood County Board Supervisor, it is my honor to recognize Deputy Zenner in this manner. The County Highway A bridge over USH 10 is located in the town of Cameron which resides in the 69th Assembly District, of which I represent. On August 3rd, 1989 Deputy Zenner was killed in a devastating car crash wearing her Deputy's uniform. Deputy Zenner was only 39 at the time, but she none-the-less made an impact on our community. She had an unwavering dedication for her service in law enforcement and deserves to be honored for her assistance to the community. As a current member on the Wood County Board of Supervisors and the State Representative for the 69th Assembly District, I support Assembly bill 510.

Deputy Zenner was a full-time deputy with the Sheriff's Department and involved in a number of law enforcement positions. To name a few, she was active in the Patch Program and in the Bicycle Safety Program. She was also a member of the Marshfield Police Department Auxiliary Police for six years. Deputy Zenner was a dedicated to achieving her goals and helping the district. She was truly an asset to the community.

As noted in the Bill, no state funds will be used to erect and maintain this marker. With various contributions from willing participants, the funds raised will be able to cover the costs of this marker. The overpass will display the marker: "Deputy LaVonne Zenner Memorial Bridge". I am in favor of this Bill because I believe that our community should honor this incredible citizen whose memory deserves to live on.

For these reasons, I support Assembly Bill 510 allowing the "Deputy LaVonne Zenner Memorial Bridge" to finally take its place in Wood County. I would appreciate your support of this Bill.