



# DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Blue Lives Matter Proposal Continues to Earn Support** *Proposal that will protect law enforcement officers moves forward*

**Madison**—Today, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) announced that the Blue Lives Matter proposal, which would expand the definition of hate crime victims in Wisconsin to include law enforcement officers, has earned several endorsements. Earlier this summer the Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin (PAAW) had voiced its support, since then, the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association and the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association have all backed the bill.

“Since announcing this proposal, I have continued to seek input from my community and from those who will be directly impacted by this legislation. It has been encouraging to earn such strong support from a number of associations representing our state’s law enforcement officers.

This bill is an important step in protecting our brave officers, who put their lives at risk every day to protect us. I am proud to be an outspoken supporter of Wisconsin’s law enforcement officers,” said Rep. Steffen.

The proposal will add law enforcement officers to the list of victims protected under Wisconsin’s hate crime law. In Wisconsin, a hate crime is a penalty enhancer, which allows for additional fines and imprisonment if the victim is targeted based on any of the protected classes within the hate crime law.

Rep. Steffen will introduce this bill at the start of the 2017-18 legislative session. He will continue to maintain an open dialogue on this important issue and to seek additional input from community members, law enforcement, colleagues, and local leaders.

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