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Rep. Sanfelippo touts grants bill during National Police Week

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – State Rep. Joe Sanfelippo knows the importance of a fully staffed police force.

As a result, the Republican lawmaker from New Berlin decided to kick off National Police Week by holding a press conference Monday outlining his proposal to strengthen the state's Law Enforcement Officer Grants program.

Several police and local government officials also showed the same level of support for Sanfelippo's proposed bill, which would increase overall funding for the program, expand the list of eligible applicants to include county sheriff's departments and remove the minimum size requirement for eligible communities.

"While this is an officer safety issue, it's much bigger," Milwaukee Police Association President Mike Crivello said at the press conference. "If we don't mitigate harm to our officers, they cannot adequately protect our communities."

Sanfelippo's bill would be the first step in fighting escalating violent crime and drug abuse across the state. But in order to fully alleviate these issues, Sanfelippo says it will take a combined effort from judges, district attorneys and community corrections officials.

"If we can beef up police presence in our neighborhoods, it makes our citizens feel safer, starts getting the bad guys off the street and then we can start taking back control of some of our neighborhoods here," Sanfelippo said.

Sanfelippo is proposing to bolster the grant funding by \$14 million by making cuts to other programs, including tobacco use control, walleye production contracts, the Wisconsin Arts Board, tourism joint marketing and Buy Local grants.

"It's really a matter of prioritizing our spending," Sanfelippo said.

[Click here](#) to view a video of Monday's press conference.

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