



# CODY HORLACHER

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February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Horlacher Works to Curb Gang Activity in Wisconsin**

Madison, WI- Representative Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwonago) was joined by his Assembly colleagues in voting for a bill he authored, AB 403, which provides an opportunity for communities to fight back against gang activity. The bill allows prosecutors the chance to add an enhancer penalty to the sentence for a crime that a criminal gang-member is convicted of committing. This enhancer would increase the term of imprisonment for those crimes that are committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal gang or committed with the intent to promote or otherwise assist any criminal conduct by criminal gang members.

“Criminal gangs have a negative impact on communities across the state. We need to send a clear message that Wisconsinites will not stand for criminal gang activity in their neighborhoods. This bill will help to address the growing influence of criminal gangs and the problems associated with criminal gang activity,” said Rep. Horlacher.

This bill allows prosecutors the option to add an enhancer when charging a crime. If utilized this enhancer will not increase a misdemeanor to a felony but could increase a misdemeanor by up to 6 months. Additionally, Class A-D felonies could be increased up to 5 years, Class E-G felonies could be increased up to 4 years, and Class H or I felonies could be increased up to 3 years. Once again it is important to note that prosecutors have the option to utilize this option when charging, they are not required to do so.

“We need to support law enforcement and our local officials who are working tirelessly every day to keep our communities safe from criminal gang activity. I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for supporting this bill and I look forward to continuing efforts to address the growing problem of criminal gangs in Wisconsin,” said Rep.Horlacher.

The bill now moves to the Senate for a vote before heading to the governor’s desk for signature into law.

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*Rep. Horlacher represents the communities of Eagle, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Mukwonago, Palmyra, and the greater Southeastern Wisconsin area.*