



## Media Release

*For Immediate Release*  
January 16, 2017

Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland  
office: (608) 267-9649

### **Wisconsin Assembly Passes Sexually Violent Person (SVP) Placement Bill**

MADISON – This afternoon, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed Assembly Bill 539, legislation to create a new process for the placement of Sexually Violent Persons (SVPs) by restoring oversight and decision-making authority to local officials.

Assembly Bill 539 addresses the shortcomings in state law that have led to the growing problem of SVPs being placed in communities outside their home county, including in the Town of Alban in Portage County. The bill is modeled after a budget motion authored by Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), which received bipartisan support in the legislature but was ultimately vetoed by Governor Walker.

In response to Assembly Bill 539's passage, Rep. Shankland released the following statement:

"I am very pleased that the plan I co-authored and helped pass on the budget committee received broad bipartisan support in the State Assembly today. Under this bill, sexually violent persons would no longer be sent to live in communities that are not their own, and local officials and community members would finally have a seat at the table when residency decisions are made. Most of us can agree that the placement of a sexually violent person is a sensitive decision that belongs in the hands of local officials, not bureaucrats in Madison."

"Although Governor Walker has vetoed this plan once before, I'm hopeful that he will see the State Assembly's bipartisan vote today and reconsider his position. I've requested a meeting with him to discuss how urgent this issue is to many rural residents. The problem of out-of-county SVP placements isn't going away, and rural communities like the Town of Alban cannot afford to wait any longer for meaningful action."

###