

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 28, 2015

Senator Scott Fitzgerald (608)-266-5660 Representative Mark Born (608) 266-2540

Sen. Fitzgerald, Rep. Born Call for Legal Action to Revisit Sex Offender Placement

[Madison, WI] Late Wednesday, a Dodge County community notification meeting was held regarding the upcoming release of two sex offenders in the Town of Leroy. The release is scheduled to go forward no later than June 1, 2015.

Area legislators Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) and Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) released the following statement:

"Today, we are calling for the Department of Health Services under the authority given by 980.08(6m) of the Wisconsin statutes, to stop the intended court ordered placement of two individuals—both convicted of first degree sexual assault of a child—in the Town of Leroy.

We were shocked and dismayed at the lack of notice given to both the community and their elected officials on this crucial issue. We were first notified of the plan to place these individuals Tuesday, and immediately reached out to both the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and the Secretary of the Department of Health Services to express our deep disappointment at the lack of consideration given to the Leroy community in making this decision.

Allowing two Chapter 980 individuals to be placed next to the residence of two young children is simply unacceptable, as is allocating less than a week's time from the scheduled community notification meeting to the placement deadline.

Wisconsin law gives the Department of Health Services the ability to revisit placement decisions for circumstances such as these, and the agency has a responsibility to the Leroy community to stop this placement until a more suitable location can be found."