



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2011

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MADD Urges Support of Legislation To Eliminate Wisconsin's Early Release Program

--Legislation reverses 2009 act, which allowed for at least 34 repeat convicted drunk drivers to be released early from their sentence--

Madison, Wis. – Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) today testified in support of legislation that would reverse the early release program for convicted drunk drivers in Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 86 and Senate Bill 57, which reverse Act 28 of 2009 allowing for the early release of repeat convicted drunk drivers, received a joint legislative hearing today.

“Wisconsin must do more to stop drunk driving. Allowing for the continued practice of early release for repeat convicted drunk drivers tramples on the rights of victims and compromises public safety,” said John Vose, MADD Wisconsin Leadership Chair. “MADD urges lawmakers to pass this important legislation and close the revolving door of drunk driving in Wisconsin.”

In 2009 and 2010, MADD expressed concern to lawmakers and the Department of Corrections that the early release of inmates included repeat OWI offenders and sent a mixed message of Wisconsin's tolerance for drunk driving. According to a Legislative Council memo, as a result of the current early release program, at least 34 drunk drivers with multiple convictions have received early release in Wisconsin.

MADD supports AB 86 and SB 57 because the 100 percent preventable crime of drunk driving continues to pose a serious threat to Wisconsinites:

- In 2009, 213 people were killed in drunk driving crashes in Wisconsin, and 3,793 people were injured in alcohol-related crashes.
- There are 33,166 three-time convicted drunk drivers on Wisconsin's roads, and there are 5,042 with five or more convictions.
- 40 percent of first-time convicted drunk drivers become repeat offenders.
- A majority of drunk drivers who kill or injure others in crashes have no prior convictions.
- Currently, drunk driving offenders with multiple convictions can earn early release from their sentence, furthering the revolving door of drunk driving in Wisconsin.

About Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Founded by a grieving mother, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking. With the help of those who want a safer future, MADD's *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving*® will end this danger on America's roads. *PowerTalk 21*™ is the national day for parents to talk with their kids about alcohol, using the proven strategies of *Power of Parents, It's Your Influence*™ to reduce the risk of underage drinking. And as one of the largest victim services organizations in the U.S., MADD also supports drunk driving victims and survivors at no charge, serving one person every 10 minutes at 1-877-MADD-HELP. Learn more at www.madd.org or call 1-877-ASK-MADD.

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