



## PATRICK TESTIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Several bipartisan Testin bills passed by state Senate

MADISON, Wis. – Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) is proud that the Wisconsin Senate passed a number of his bipartisan bills during today’s floor session, some of which focus on recognizing veterans, increasing access to dental services in underserved areas and improving traffic safety in work zones.

“I am very happy that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle were able to come together today to pass some meaningful legislation that will benefit a wide mix of Wisconsinites, especially our veterans and services members and those living in rural communities,” Sen. Testin said.

The first bill, SB 633, honors the legacy of the Ho-Chunk Code Talkers by naming the stretch of Interstate 90 from the Wisconsin-Minnesota border to Interstate 94 in Tomah the “Ho-Chunk World War II Code Talkers Memorial Highway.”

During World War II, at least 14 Ho-Chunk servicemen used their voices to confuse the enemy and help the Allies win the war. They, along with native people from 32 other tribes, were Code Talkers who used their language to facilitate the rapid communication and coordination of wartime plans.

The second piece of legislation, SB 706, will provide scholarships to Wisconsin resident students who are enrolled at the Marquette University School of Dentistry and agree to practice dentistry in a dental health professional shortage area upon graduation.

According to the state Department of Health Services, close to 50 Wisconsin counties are federally designated as dental health professional shortage areas, including Wood, Jackson, Adams, Waushara, Monroe and Portage counties.

The other three bills do the following:

- Require all driver’s education courses in Wisconsin to include 30 minutes of instruction time on highway work zone hazards
- Streamline the National Guard tuition reimbursement grant distribution process
- Ensure the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program permanently modernizes provider and provider group enrollment rules to accommodate virtual care services such as telehealth

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