



# DAVID STEFFEN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Steffen Unveils “Blue Lives Matter” Legislation**

*Proposal will expand the definition of hate crime victims to include law enforcement officers*

**Madison**—Today, at a press conference held at the Brown County Sheriff’s Office, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) released details of the “Blue Lives Matter” proposal, which will expand the definition of hate crime victims in Wisconsin to include law enforcement officers. Rep. Steffen was joined by numerous members of law enforcement, local officials, and community members in support of this proposal.

Currently in Wisconsin, hate crimes are defined as a crime in which the victim is targeted due to the victim’s race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. The “Blue Lives Matter” proposal will add law enforcement officers to this list of victims. A hate crime serves as a penalty enhancer, allowing for additional fines and years of imprisonment if the victim was targeted based on any of the protected classes within our state’s hate crime law.

“I am overwhelmed by the level of support I have already received for this proposal from members of law enforcement as well as residents from across our state. I know that this initiative is an important step forward to expanding the protections and support that we have for our law enforcement officers. This bill sends a strong message that Wisconsin will always be behind our brave members of law enforcement. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is paramount that our officers know they are proudly supported,” said Rep. Steffen.

Rep. Steffen plans to introduce this proposal as his first bill when the legislature is back in session in January 2017. In the meantime, Rep. Steffen will continue to seek input from law enforcement, Wisconsin residents, and his colleagues in the legislature in order to make any necessary improvements to the bill prior to formal introduction.

The full video of today’s press conference can be found at:

<http://fox11online.com/news/political/wisconsin-legislator-announces-blue-lives-matter-bill>

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