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Enabling Community Partners in Wisconsin's Fight Against Illegal Drugs

Madison—Representative Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg) and Senator Devin LeMahieu (R–Oostburg) testified yesterday before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety in support of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 383](#), a bill they authored to help communities combat illegal drugs.

Sheboygan County District Attorney Joe DeCecco and Sheboygan Police Captain James Veerer also attended to testify in support of the bill and field questions from committee members.

“District Attorney DeCecco, Sheboygan Police Chief Christopher Domagalski and Captain Veerer worked for more than a year to solve a complicated challenge faced by law enforcement officers in Sheboygan County and across the state,” said Rep. Katsma. “This bill is going to help communities close a loophole that benefits only bad actors.”

Under current law, medical professionals who draw blood from criminal suspects to determine the presence of alcohol are immune from civil or criminal liability for the act. SB 383 extends similar legal protection to medical personnel who agree to assist law enforcement officers by conducting court-ordered searches for illegal drugs.

“The only way for our communities to be successful in fighting our drug abuse epidemic is if all our available resources are working together,” explained Sen. LeMahieu. “This bill strengthens local partnerships and allows medical personnel to assist law enforcement with confidence.”

The bill is also expected to receive a public hearing in the Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee next week and gain bipartisan support in both houses of the state legislature.

Rep. Katsma said, “Many people don’t realize that 94 percent of the bills passed in the Assembly this year passed with bipartisan support. This is a great example of an idea that transcends party lines and will benefit all Wisconsin communities.”

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Representative Terry Katsma represents the 26th Assembly District including the cities of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls; the villages of Adell, Oostburg, Random Lake and Cedar Grove; and the towns of Lima, Holland, Sherman and Wilson. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and as a member of the committees on Consumer Protection, Housing and Real Estate, Ways and Means and Workforce Development.