

## HAVE YOU HURD? – MARCH 24, 2023

Last week Tuesday, I met with the Eau Claire and Trempealeau Youth Apprenticeship Program. We have an excellently developed and extensive Youth Apprenticeship program in Wisconsin. They are doing great things fostering and training such talented and bright students. I happily encourage any and all students in my district and throughout Wisconsin to check them out at [DWD Youth Apprenticeship](#) and talk with your parents about being involved!



Later that day, the Assembly passed two school safety bills. They require schools to collect crime statistics, report certain crimes, and employ armed school resource officers if schools hit a 100 incident threshold. These 2 bills promote transparency and improve school safety ([School Safety PR](#)). The Assembly also passed a merit scholarship bill eliminating the sunset date for Wisconsin Merit scholarships awarded to University of Wisconsin System students.

The Assembly has also drafted an abortion bill to update the current abortion bill. This bill would allow abortion during the first trimester only in the case of sexual assault or incest, as well as in the case of the health of the mother.

There is, perhaps, no other issue that is so deeply emotional as that of abortion. Because of this intensity of sentiment, proponents on both sides have a tendency to swing to extremes. Therefore, it is best to come to a place where we can abide with each other without such sharp divide. This bill seeks to find a middle ground where although neither side will have all their desires met, both sides will achieve partial success. It recognizes a woman's right to choose as well as recognizing the rights of an unborn child to live. ([Exceptions PR](#)).

This week Tuesday, Governor Evers and legislative Democrats proposed a bill to eliminate any abortion ban. This bill would allow abortion-on-demand. The repealing of the 1849 statute only addresses the rights of the woman. The rights of the unborn child are ignored. A better way forward is the bill that Assembly Republicans introduced March 16, 2023 that seeks to update Wisconsin’s abortion law to match the will of the people of Wisconsin.

I see the Republican bill that was proposed last Wednesday as a “Save as Many Babies as We Can” bill. Although I am personally opposed to abortion, history shows us that a hardline stance not allowing for rape, incest, or the health of the mother results in court cases such as *Roe v. Wade* that allowed abortion-on-demand for half a century where 18 babies died from abortion each day in Wisconsin. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. I will oppose the Democrats’ bill that calls for the repeal of the 1849 abortion law and represent the majority of the people of Wisconsin who want to update the abortion law to include exceptions. ([Abortion on Demand PR](#)).

On March 22, the Assembly held their third floor session. I introduced Officer Tre Johnson and Officer Sam Sperry of the Eau Claire Police Department as Hometown Heroes. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Officers Sperry and Johnson demonstrated what it means to be a hero. On that evening, the officers responded to a dangerous situation involving an armed and intoxicated suspect in the city of Eau Claire. The situation quickly became dire when the armed suspect aimed his firearm at Officers Sperry and Johnson. The two officers reacted quickly, successfully neutralized the suspect, and performed emergency care on him, allowing the suspect to survive. Officers Sperry and Johnson voluntarily put themselves in grave danger with an armed and unpredictable suspect for the sake of their community. Their quick decision-making and courage allowed them to restore safety and order to the city and community they care for. Rep. Summerfield and I are proud to present Officers Sam Sperry and Tre Johnson as hometown heroes. Thank you.



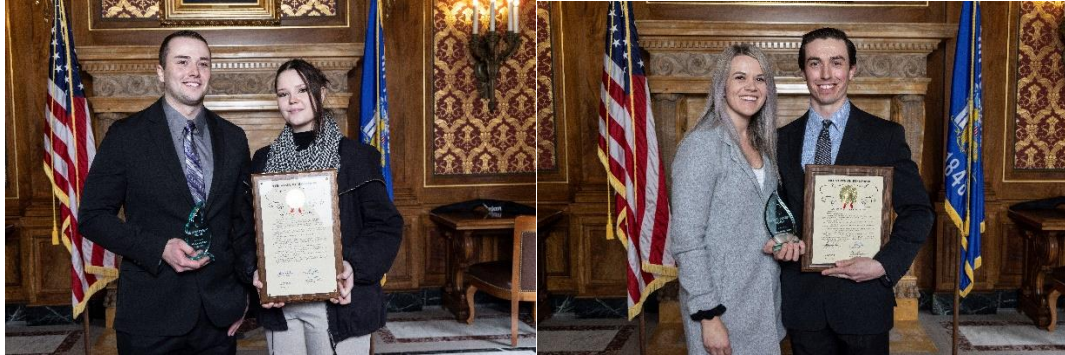
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Afterwards, the Assembly passed eight bills to crack down on crime. These bills include reforms that double penalties for reckless driving, creating a mandatory minimum sentence for violent felons in possession of a firearm, provide transparency on individuals that have been granted, denied, or had their parole revoked, and define “violent crime” and “serious harm” for the bail constitutional amendment on the ballot on April 4th. I voted yes because we need to give judges the tools to keep dangerous criminals out of the community while on trial for violent felonies. We also called for a special election for the statewide office of Secretary of State after the sudden retirement of Secretary of State Doug La Follette resigned. ([Bail Amendment FAQ](#), [Tough on Crime PR](#), [Secretary of State PR](#)).

Later this month through April, Senator James and I will be holding listening sessions in Lafayette, Withee, Fall Creek, Altoona, and Fairchild. Feel free to attend any and all of those meetings. I would love to meet and talk to as many of you as possible. ([Spring Events 2023](#)).

Finally, remember there’s an election on April 4th. Wisconsinites will elect a judge to the State Supreme Court and vote on several other issues. A constitutional amendment giving judges the ability to deny bail to violent criminals, and an advisory question regarding requirements to work to get state benefits.