



Media Release

For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Contact: Rep. Katrina Shankland
office: (608) 267-9649

Walker Vetoes Bipartisan Solution to Sexually Violent Person (SVP) Placements

MADISON – This afternoon, Governor Walker announced his vetoes for the 2017-19 state budget. Among the governor’s vetoes is his veto of a motion authored by Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), which would have created a new process for the placement of Sexually Violent Persons (SVPs) by restoring oversight and decision-making authority to local officials. The motion passed the Joint Finance Committee with bipartisan support.

Due to shortcomings in state law, there has been growing public concern in recent years about the placement of SVPs in communities outside their home county. The Town of Alban in Portage County has been forced to house multiple SVPs who committed their crimes elsewhere in the state. These SVPs were placed there despite a prior Portage County Court ruling that the residence was not appropriate due to its close proximity to a community center that functions as a town hall.

Rep. Shankland released the following statement in response to Governor Walker’s veto:

“As a member of the budget committee, I was pleased to work across the aisle to deliver results to my constituents back home on an issue that has been of such deep concern to them. It was refreshing to see bipartisan action when our communities needed it most. That’s why I’m so disappointed that Governor Walker decided to veto our common-sense plan without regard to local control or ensuring that community members have a seat at the table.

“The budget motion that Rep. Born and I introduced would have ensured that sexually violent persons would no longer be sent to live in communities that are not their own. The placement of a sexually violent person is a sensitive decision that belongs in the hands of local officials, not bureaucrats in Madison.

“Our budget motion was developed with input from a broad array of stakeholders and had widespread support from my constituents. With his veto, Governor Walker has essentially forced us back to square one. I will continue to work across the aisle to develop a long-term solution to this issue, but in the meantime, our constituents’ concerns aren’t going away. The governor’s veto fails our community members at a time when they most needed the state to act.”

###