
NIK RETTINGER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 83rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2024

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Assembly Passes Moses/Rettinger Bill to Limit Baseless Investigations of Law Enforcement Freshman Lawmaker Proud to Demonstrate Further Commitment to Those Who Protect Us

Madison – Assembly Bill 544, which limits the state’s “John Doe” investigations unless new evidence is presented, was passed by the Assembly today. The bill passed on a party-line vote out of the Assembly Committee on the Judiciary, on which Representative Nik Rettinger (R-Mukwonago) serves as the Vice-Chairman. Following passage today, Rep. Rettinger said:

“I am proud to co-author this legislation alongside Rep. Moses, as well as Senator Hutton, to prevent courts from conducting repetitive hearings on cases where the District Attorney declined to issue a complaint because the person was acting in self-defense and no new evidence is presented. The abusive use of “John Doe” to continuously pursue investigations, at the legal expense of the individual targeted, while also dragging their families through the court of public opinion is shameful and should have no place in our justice system.”

Rep. Rettinger additionally voted yes on AB237, which he co-authored with Rep. Maxey and Senator Bradley, known better as “Johanna’s Law.” The bill expands the victims’ right to participate in a parole hearing before the prisoner is released, increases the victims’ notice of release from seven days to thirty, requires prisoners to submit to psychological evaluation that must be considered by the reviewing authority, and allows the local police chief or sheriff to provide a notice of release to the general public at their discretion.

“Johanna was horrifically murdered by her estranged husband in 1997. He stabbed her more than forty times leading to a sentencing of 80 years in prison, but was set to walk free on parole after serving just 25 years. This left the family of Johanna shocked and demanding answers as to how this could have happened. Due to immense public pressure, the attempt to allow her killer to receive parole was eventually blocked. Their story inspired this legislation to ensure the family of a victim is notified and has the opportunity to speak out before parole is granted.”

To round out the day, Rep. Rettinger voted **against** AB37, which relates to the topic of expungement reform. Rep. Rettinger has previously introduced legislation, AB 310, which further limits expungement and require the Department of Corrections to recommend revoking extended supervision, parole, or probation for an individual who has been charged with a new crime while on release. Additionally, Rettinger voted in favor of the bill package aimed at combating human trafficking, developed by the members of the Speaker’s Task Force on Human Trafficking, and was proud to vote in favor of the Judicial Safety Enhancements bill package.

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The 83rd Assembly District includes portions of Waukesha, Racine, and Walworth Counties including the municipalities of Mukwonago, Eagle, Big Bend, Vernon, Muskego, Waterford, East Troy, Troy, and Troy Center.