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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Rep. Bob Donovan

Legislators Urge Governor Evers to Sign Critical Public Safety Legislation

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 84TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Greenfield – Representative Bob Donovan (R-Greenfield) gave the following statement following a press conference which highlighted the need for Governor Evers to sign Senate Bill 514. This critical legislation combats the epidemic of reckless driving and the many that flee from police. This legislation increases the penalties for fleeing an officer by one classification for every form of the offense. Mandatory minimum sentencing is also included so criminals must serve at least 10% of the maximum sentence for causing great bodily harm or death.

"This legislation was needed five years ago when reckless driving was a budding issue. Now we have a full blown crisis on our hands. We cannot afford another year without enhanced deterrence," said Rep. Donovan. "Rash decisions of the past resulted in the situation we are in today. Criminals exploited lenient policies and the government was ill equipped to handle the historic explosion of reckless driving and fleeing an officer."

Senate Bill 514 was passed on a voice vote in both the State Assembly and State Senate showing an overwhelming amount of bipartisan support. Additionally, this legislation is supported by numerous law enforcement groups, the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, and the Wisconsin District Attorneys' Association.

"I strongly believe in the need for this legislation. The Legislature agreed and passed this with incredible support, but most importantly the citizens of Milwaukee County want action on this issue. I wouldn't be beating the drum for public safety if it wasn't an issue," said Rep. Donovan. "Governor Evers should sign this bill the moment he is able—it's that serious."

Through the legislative process, community members came together to testify and support SB 514. Those same individuals decided to now create a community organization—"Enough is Enough: A Legacy for Erin." This organization's goal is to give a voice to victims of crime, find solutions, and bring accountability to judicial officials through a court watch program.

"I know our police are doing the best they can. The Legislature has made fleeing an officer a priority and hopefully Governor Evers does as well," said Rep. Donovan. "However, our judges are rarely scrutinized and I believe a court watch program is a simple yet effective tool—sunlight is the best disinfectant."

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