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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:
October 11th, 2019

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Answering the Call

Last week we had our Assembly session. There were many bills and resolutions that were voted on, but I would like to touch on two that are very important to Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 469, my own bill which gives tax credits to our volunteer first responders, fire fighters, and EMS personnel passed the Assembly floor unanimously, which is very uncommon. It is a great piece of legislation that we all can agree on. I have been working on this idea and this legislation since my first day in Madison. After being unanimously voted out of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Finance, and the Assembly floor, AB 469 is one step closer to being signed into law.

With a rapidly declining number of volunteer emergency responders, this bill is not the silver bullet, but it is the first step to attract and retain our much needed personnel. It is important to bring attention to the declining number of volunteer emergency responders because without them we as Wisconsinites would suffer tremendously.

Our first responders, fire fighters and EMS personnel often do not receive the credit that they deserve. Many of these individuals from all across our state are missing their day jobs and their wages, family functions, and other activities because they are answering the call and volunteering their valuable time to help others that are in a state of emergency.

As we are out completing our daily tasks, we tend to forget how many 911 calls are made in any given day and how many individuals are needed to respond to those calls. Imagine missing a holiday celebration with your loved ones to respond to a burning building call, or a car accident because this happens more than we realize and unfortunately in our rural communities, firefighters and EMS are often friends with or knows the individuals needing emergency assistance.

In addition, Assembly Joint Resolution 85 Senate Joint Resolution 66 passed the Assembly and Senate respectively which recognizes October 28, 2019 as First Responders Appreciation Day in Wisconsin. We are proud to be able to recognize first responders and appreciate what they do and sacrifice for each and every one of us.

Thank you to all of our first responders for all that they do!

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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