For Immediate Release: Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
April 29yh, 2024 (608) 237-9192

**Consumers Protected**

On April 6th, 2024, Governor Tony Evers signed Assembly Bill 917 (AB 917) into law becoming Wisconsin Act 271. This piece of legislation was authored by Representative Todd Novak(R – 51) and Senator Patrick Testin (R – 24). This bill was heard and passed through the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, which I thankfully have the honor to sit on.

Wisconsin Act 271 would prohibit the sale of counterfeit lighters and unsafe lighters. There is currently no direct definition of an “unsafe lighter” in state statute. This addition of a definition would provide a safety factor in our state.

Unfortunately over the past few years, the selling of counterfeit lighters and unsafe lighters has rapidly increased and has led to many dangerous events occurring; especially in children. Major injuries have occurred, hospital bills have increased incredibly, and in extreme cases; death has occurred. These scenarios are absolutely terrible and ones that we never want to happen. It also seems that they could all be avoided.

Many of these fake lighters are found cheaply online and sold from foreign nations. Parents will find these lighters and order them because of how cheap they are and the children will innocently mess around and get hurt. This bill, and now law, will seek to end these irregularities.

I was proud to support these bills in the committee and want to tip my cap to the authors of this bill.

As always, feel free to contact my office at (608) 237-9192 or email me at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov with questions, comments, or concerns.

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