



For Immediate Release

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MADISON – Rep. Steve Doyle (D – Onalaska) released the following statement after the introduction of the “Justice for Children Package” of bills aimed at protecting Wisconsin’s children. Rep. Doyle is the second author on one of the bills.

One of the proposals in the package, LRB 1942, had been previously introduced by Rep. Doyle, Rep. Jill Billings and Sen. Jennifer Shilling. “We had a public hearing on the bill, AB 626, last session and I am hopeful that we can build on that support again in this term,” said Doyle.

The original bill was the result of a discussion with the La Crosse Drug Endangered Children Coalition, which works to protect children whose parents are using or dealing drugs. From this discussion, AB 626 was drafted to include the words “exposure to the distribution, manufacture, or use of controlled substances” to the state definition of neglect.

“We’ve had a number of cases in our area where a local District Attorney was not able to charge parents with the crime of child neglect when they were manufacturing, using and distributing drugs in the presence of their children,” said Doyle. “This proposal aimed to fix that situation to ensure that we have the tools we need to protect these kids.”

“I am looking forward to working with Sen. Cowles to move forward with this bill and the rest of the Justice for Children Package,” said Doyle.

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