



State Representative
AMY LOUDENBECK



Proudly representing the
31st Assembly District

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

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Wisconsin State Legislative Update

Spring 2020

Human Trafficking Summit



In January I was selected to represent Wisconsin at an Anti-Human Trafficking Summit at the White House. I was also invited to participate in a panel on paths forward to combat trafficking as well as innovative solutions to end human trafficking on the state, local, and tribal levels.



The summit celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Speakers included human trafficking survivors as well as Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, Ambassador Callista Gingrich, Attorney General Bill Barr, Vice President Mike Pence and President Donald Trump.



As an anti-human trafficking policy area leader in Wisconsin, I was proud to share all of the work that has occurred since we really started understanding this issue back in 2011. Looking back on the many bills I have authored, and all of the wonderful people I have had the privilege of working with and learning from along the way, was truly humbling.

As survivors shared their stories of shame and hopelessness, I was reminded of the importance of the work we do to prevent this heinous crime and punish those who allow it. Equally important is the work happening in our communities to encourage compassion and support for victims seeking forgiveness, kindness and another chance at life.

It was an incredible honor to represent Wisconsin at this summit and renew my dedication to our fight for freedom for trafficked individuals.

“It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative in the Wisconsin Assembly.”

- Rep. Loudenbeck



Phone: (608) 266-9967
Toll Free: (888)-529-0031

rep.loudenbeck@legis.wi.gov
reploudenbeck.com



E-Updates

I send out an electronic newsletter to constituents in the 31st Assembly District to keep them informed regarding what is happening in Madison. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email to rep.loudenbeck@legis.wi.gov.



Wisconsin State Capitol Tours

Our State Capitol building in Madison is the best in the nation. It has a rich history and a unique beauty that I encourage everyone to experience on a guided tour. Please let us know when you stop by. We would love to greet you and take a picture.



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»»» 2019 - 2020 Accomplishments and Highlights

Bills Signed Into Law

Ideas for bills are plentiful, so I try to be prudent in deciding what to focus on. I don't limit myself to just a few policy areas, and I try to keep an open mind. Many of the bills I author are inspired by conversations with individuals in the 31st Assembly District, others are developed in consultation with stakeholders, and some reflect my own ideas for addressing challenges facing our district and our state.



- **2019 Act 15:** makes common sense changes to allow the Department of Revenue to disclose tax liability to a person who is looking to purchase a business or purchase inventory from a business. This bill was inspired by constituents who became responsible for the sales tax liability of another business, even though they had no way of knowing the liability existed.
- **2019 Act 22:** provides safe shelter options for 17 year old homeless and unaccompanied youth. Working with advocates, I have now passed three separate bills that help youth access work, mental health and shelter services.
- **2019 Act 25:** allows Wisconsin communities to apply for a federal pilot program that provides flexibility to ambulance care teams so they can address the immediate medical needs of Medicare beneficiaries following a 911 call and divert low-acuity patients from the Emergency Department.
- **2019 Act 26:** begins the planning process for a grant program for Public Safety Answering Points to purchase, update, and maintain Next Generation-911 equipment so users can transmit text, images, video, and data to and from a 911 dispatch center.
- **2019 Act 35:** opens up an existing loan repayment program to minority teachers who work in a public, private, or tribal school in a Wisconsin school district in which minority students constitute at least 40% of the membership. The old program was limited to schools in Milwaukee and was underutilized.
- **2019 Act 56:** increases access to telehealth services for Medicaid recipients. This new law will allow Medicaid recipients and providers to fully leverage telehealth's true potential without raising costs.



Work in Progress

The following bills have received strong bipartisan support so far and many will likely pass before the Legislature adjourns.

- **Assembly Bill 472:** provides certain flexibilities to local municipalities that combine EMS services without combining their fire departments. Current law already provides flexibility to joint fire and joint fire/ems departments. Studies show these cooperative arrangements often provide a higher level of service at a lower cost than what an individual community could provide on their own.
- **Assembly Bill 501:** funds pay progression for state public defenders ensuring that each of the three legs of the criminal justice stool (Courts, Prosecutors, and Public Defenders) are adequately resourced and balanced.
- **Assembly Bill 503:** aims to improve surface water quality by allowing lake and river management grant funds to be used for the strategic placement of floating treatment wetlands to improve surface water quality and remove excess phosphorus and other nutrients from Wisconsin waterways.
- **Assembly Bill 556:** requires the University of Wisconsin to recognize and reward time spent by state integrated specialists teaching Wisconsin farmers in the same way other faculty are evaluated for teaching in a classroom.
- **Assembly Bill 737:** addresses an issue that was brought to my attention by the Elkhorn Area School District. The bill removes the limit on the number of schools a student can apply to under open enrollment for applications to a virtual charter school. This will allow pupils with disciplinary problems or complex behavioral/medical challenges to receive appropriate educational services.

• **Assembly Bill 855:** reauthorizes the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program which preserves valuable natural area and wildlife habitat, protects water quality and fisheries, and expands opportunities for outdoor recreation until 2030. The bill utilizes the segregated forestry account to pay for state land purchases with cash, and reduces the current level of annual bonding by approximately 30%. The bill also reduces overall spending by approximately 7% and includes actionable steps to address legitimate concerns about existing and future debt service obligations.

• **Assembly Bills 874 and 876:** seek to fully leverage the assets of the UW-System (AB 874) and UW-Madison (AB 876) by directing these institutions to inventory, evaluate, and provide recommendations on how to enhance their agriculture-related course offerings. This information will help us determine the best way forward in these difficult times so Wisconsin can lead the way in 21st century agriculture.

• **Assembly Bill 875:** gives farmers and those who are self-employed the ability to fully deduct their health insurance expenses on their income taxes, just like every other type of business arrangement already can under current law, providing tax relief for small businesses and farmers in Wisconsin.

