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Contact: Senator André Jacque

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(608) 266-3512

## **SEN. JACQUE'S BILL TO KEEP OUT-OF-STATE DRUNK DRIVERS OFF WISCONSIN ROADS CLEARS COMMITTEE**

### *Measure ratifies Wisconsin's participation in the national Driver License Compact*

MADISON, WI... Wisconsin would keep its roads safer by joining 46 other states in sharing information about driver traffic offenses including drunk driving under legislation unanimously passed by a Senate committee today.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), author of the measure that would ratify Wisconsin's participation in the national Driver License Compact, said dangerous driving offenders have been able to slip through the notification cracks and receive licenses.

"Currently, Wisconsin is one of only four states not engaged in this compact," Sen. Jacque said. "This absence can cause information gaps for law enforcement that have tragic consequences."

At 1:40 am on June 10, 2018, a family's life was completely shattered when their oldest son, 23-year-old Austin Lee Lockwood, was killed by a drunk driver in Three Lakes, Wisconsin. The drunk driver had an Illinois driver's license and he refused a blood test at the scene, which should have automatically suspended his license in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

"Austin had a bright future and family and friends who loved him," Sen. Jacque said. "But, because Wisconsin did not notify Illinois of the violation, his Illinois license remained valid, a loophole that later allowed the offender to obtain a Wisconsin driver license after his family moved here."

Sen. Jacque said the interstate Driver License Compact is a contract between states that enforces OWI/DUI convictions out of state by agreeing to honor the OWI/DUI license suspension requirements in the state in which the DUI took place. The compact creates uniformity and reduces administrative costs so that each driver, nationwide, has only one driver license and one driver control record.

"Adding Wisconsin to the interstate Driver License Compact will close a dangerous loophole," Sen. Jacque said. "Improved nationwide data sharing and best practices will help prevent offenders from bringing their reckless - and potentially deadly - behavior into Wisconsin from another state, and give law enforcement and courts more information to protect the public from chronic offenders."

Sen. Jacque said joining the compact is strongly supported and requested by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

"Drunk driving crashes are preventable tragedies caused by reckless choices for which the driver who made them are responsible," Sen. Jacque said. "Dangerously impaired drivers put the lives of their fellow citizens at risk, with no consideration for the safety of their potential victims and their grieving families."

The legislation ([Senate Bill 153](#)) must next pass the full Senate and Assembly and be signed by the Governor to become law.

*Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.*