



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Sen. Joan Ballweg

November 5, 2021
(608) 266-0751

Safe Haven Bill Signed Into Law

Madison... Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) authored a bill that was signed into law, which adds information related to the state's Safe Haven law to high school health classes.

Wisconsin's Safe Haven law allows parents to safely relinquish their newborn children to police officers, emergency responders or hospitals without legal consequence, so long as the child is less than 72 hours old.

"This legislation was drafted in response to a tragedy involving a newborn baby named Harper, who was found murdered earlier this year in Green County," said Senator Ballweg. "Being pregnant as an adult is stressful, but teen pregnancy brings along a number of additional stressors, including meeting school obligations, judgment by peers, potential ramifications from family members and low incomes. When emotions are high, this legislation provides those young parents another option to consider."

This legislation does not mandate that school boards have to offer this curriculum but states that if they do offer human growth and development courses, this information be added.

To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. The 14th Senate District is located in Central Wisconsin, and is composed of parts of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Outagamie, Sauk, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.

###