



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Agard Introduces Legislation to Place Protections, Increase Safety Around Retention Ponds

MADISON – Today, Senator Agard released legislation that would require retention ponds across the state of Wisconsin to incorporate certain protective measures to prevent life-threatening accidents. State Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement:

“In light of the devastating recent tragedies in Sun Prairie, where two young boys’ lives were lost, and other incidents, like in Stoughton, where a young autistic boy passed away just over a decade ago, Wisconsin needs thoughtful policy in regards to retention ponds for some of the most vulnerable in our community. Lack of safety measures around retention ponds have caused many deaths that could have been prevented.

“Today, I am proud to introduce legislation in order to address the lack of safety protections for retention ponds in our communities. One policy would require one or more of the following safety measures for ponds in higher density areas: a shallow ledge, vegetation that is at least two feet high, or an alternative feature approved by the Department of Natural Resources. The other proposal would require fencing and signage around every retention pond. Thoughtful action will help to prevent accidents that forever alter the lives of family members, friends, and those in our communities.

“It is past time that Wisconsin implement safety precautions for retention ponds to protect our children. These terrible tragedies are preventable, and no family should encounter the loss of their loved ones due to unprotected retention ponds.”

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