



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2022

CONTACT: Van Wanggaard
608-266-1832

WANGGAARD INVOKING CHAIRMAN POWERS TO OBTAIN PAROLE COMMISSION RECORDS; EVER'S ADMINISTRATION STONEWALLING ON LEGISLATIVE INQUIRIES

MADISON – After months of having his requests for records of the Parole Commission ignored, Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) is exercising his statutory powers as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety (Wis. Stat. §13.45(7)) to obtain records from the Parole Commission and Department of Corrections (DOC).

In a letter (attached) sent today to DOC Secretary Kevin Carr, Wanggaard stated:

“I will be blunt. It appears that the Department and/or the [Parole] Commission is stonewalling and undermining the Legislature’s duty to oversee the DOC and Commission.

Although it should be unnecessary, in order to avoid any confusion, as Chairman of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, I am now invoking Wis. Stat. § 13.45(7), which requires DOC to provide my committee “**ready** access to **any** books, records or other information relating to [their] tasks.” (Emphasis added).”

“The Tony Evers’ administration is stonewalling the Legislature’s attempt to investigate the parole commission,” said Wanggaard. “We’re learning every day that the Evers’ administration has been releasing murderers and rapists – not just the ones on mandatory release. What else are they hiding that they don’t want us to know about?”

In addition to ignoring requests from Chairman Wanggaard and committee member Senator Julian Bradley (R-Franklin), Corrections and the Parole Commission is also rebuffing inquiries from the nonpartisan Legislative Council and Legislative Reference Bureau. By not cooperating with the Legislative Council, DOC is in violation of Wis. Stat. §13.91, mandating that departments and agencies **shall** cooperate with legislative council staff to the **fullest** possible extent.” (Emphasis added).

“Every member of the public is entitled to this information under Wisconsin’s Public Records Law, I shouldn’t even have to invoke Chairman powers to obtain them, but they’ve left no other option,” said Wanggaard. “If records are not forthcoming quickly, I will meet with legislative leadership to discuss next steps, including a possible *Writ of Mandamus* and other court action.”

###

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21