



# Van H. Wanggaard

Majority Caucus Chairman

Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

*Via Hand-Delivery*

October 4, 2022

Senate President Chris Kapenga  
220 South, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear President Kapenga,

I write to ask for the referral of the appointment Christopher Blythe as chairman of the Wisconsin Parole Commission, to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety as soon as possible.

Last week, in his first meeting as acting chair, Blythe denied victims the opportunity to attend and/or be heard in the parole hearing, a violation of Article I, Section 9m of the Wisconsin Constitution (Marsy's Law). In addition, Blythe stated that he intends to grant parole hearings to nearly all of the 1,700 people in Wisconsin prisons that are eligible. Granting parole to all 1,700 people would result in approximately 5 felons per day being released from prison early for the next year.

As you know, in the first three years of Governor Evers' Administration, almost 900 people were paroled in Wisconsin. Among these 900 people were 270 murderers and 44 child rapists. Mr. Blythe stands to accelerate the release of dangerous criminals and has already violated Marsy's Law in his first hearing.

As I continue my investigation into the activities of the Parole Commission, it is imperative for public safety that Mr. Blythe not engage in the same damaging behavior as the previous chairman, John Tate II. Blythe's referral to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety will allow the committee to discuss the Wisconsin Parole Commission, and how Mr. Blythe intends to operate it.

Regards,

Van Wanggaard  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

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