



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Van Wanggaard**  
**608-266-1832**

## **When Democrats Say “Get Out of Jail Free”, They REALLY Mean It** Democrats Vote Against Allowing Conditions of Release For Juveniles

MADISON – A bill allowing judges to place conditions of release on juveniles charged with a crime passed the State Senate on Tuesday. Every Democrat voted against Senate Bill 836, and every Republican supported it.

“I am truly shocked this was a partisan vote. This should be common sense,” said bill author Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “I mean, seriously, why would Democrats object to allowing a judge to tell a juvenile defendant to stay off drugs, not contact a victim, attend counseling, or go to school? It boggles the mind.”

Due to a loophole in state law, 90% of juvenile defendants are released without any strings attached. This is because “conditions of release” can only be placed on juveniles who are being held in custody. Ninety percent of juveniles are released to their parents or guardians prior to seeing a judge and are not in custody. Therefore, a judge cannot place a condition of release such as absolute sobriety, not contacting victims or witnesses, or mandatory school attendance.

“I’d love to hear why Democrats think a juvenile defendant shouldn’t be prohibited from intimidating a witness or staying off drugs,” said Wanggaard. “I’d absolutely love for them to explain it. Unfortunately, they didn’t explain it today. I look forward to them explaining it to the voters.”

Senate Bill 836 now goes to the Assembly, where it is expected to pass this month and go to the Governor for his signature.

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State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510  
E-Mail: [Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov) • [SenatorWanggaard.com](http://SenatorWanggaard.com)