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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sexual Assault Victim Amnesty Bill Receives Public Hearing in Senate Committee

Madison, WI... Today, Assembly Bill 808, the Sexual Assault Victim Amnesty bill, authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Joan Ballweg (*R-Markesan*), received a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

“The prevalence of sexual violence across our nation and in our college campuses is nothing short of alarming and deeply concerning,” said Senator Petrowski. “Survivors of sexual assault need to know that they can come forward and report this crime without fear of an underage drinking ticket. This important piece of legislation will help to tear down at least one barrier to reporting and hopefully shed some light on how we can continue to combat this issue in Wisconsin.”

Assembly Bill 808 prohibits an underage person who has been sexually assaulted or assists a friend who has been assaulted, from being cited for underage drinking or facing disciplinary action by the University of Wisconsin System for underage drinking when coming forward to law enforcement or campus authorities. This protection extends to all under-age persons in the state of Wisconsin.

This legislation was drafted in close consultation with the Department of Justice and with victim advocates. It is broadly supported by university officials and law enforcement including the Badger State Sheriffs’ Association, WI Chiefs of Police Association and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Assembly Bill 808 now awaits executive action by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

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