



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 138
Assembly Committee on State Affairs
April 12, 2017**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 138.

Senator Testin and I have brought forward this proposal to make it possible for Safe-Ride grant recipients to use grant funds for advertising. Current law does not allow for grant funds to be utilized for advertisement of the program. This bill does not increase spending, it simply authorizes the use of existing money for advertisement.

The Safe-Ride program in Wisconsin is administered by the Department of Transportation and provides a ride home to a person who is suspected of having a blood alcohol content over the legal limit. The program is funded by a portion of the fines paid by those convicted of operating under the influence.

The Tavern League of Wisconsin operates the largest Safe-Ride program in the state, and in 2015-2016 provided over 82,000 rides home to patrons. Local units of government and nonprofit organizations are also eligible to apply for program grant funding. The grant recipient provides a match of at least 20% of the funds.

The success of the program relies on utilization of rides, and increased public awareness will help the program grow even more. The goal of Assembly Bill 138/Senate Bill 98 is to help the Safe-Ride program further reduce drunk driving in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: April 12, 2017

RE: Testimony on 2017 Assembly Bill 138

TO: The Assembly Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Good morning Chairman Swearingen and members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Assembly Bill 138. The Safe-Ride program is a popular program that helps to get individuals home safe if they feel they might have imbibed too much to drive. The program has been growing at an annual rate of approximately 10% over the past decade. However, there are still a great deal of people who are not aware of the program. This bill seeks to correct that.

In the past, some recipients of the safe-ride grants wanted to use a portion of the grant money to promote the program, but current law does not allow for the funds to be used for advertisements. Assembly Bill 138 doesn't seek new funds to cover advertising, nor does it seek to increase the grant to help promote the program. This bill simply allows part of the existing grant money to be used for advertising. The goal is to increase awareness of the program and decrease drunk driving, which I'm sure is a goal we all can get behind. So, I hope you will join me in supporting Assembly Bill 138.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share my testimony on Assembly Bill 138.