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Good Morning Chairman Spiros and members of the committee,

Thank you for holding this public hearing on Assembly Bill 506. This bill makes certain changes to the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board. But first a little background. Currently, the Law Enforcement Standards Board is tasked with assisting law enforcement by establishing minimum standards of recruitment, recruit training, and by encouraging and supporting other programs designed to improve law enforcement, tribal law enforcement and secure detention administration and performance.

AB 506 extends the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board to regulate jail, and juvenile detention officer training requirements, makes some changes to the recruitment standards for new law enforcement, jail and juvenile detention officers.

Additionally, the bill standardizes recruitment practices for all preservice students and recruits; it creates an employment file for employees as they move between agencies, and requires the officer to disclose the contents of their file to the law enforcement agency intending to hire them. It also allows the hiring agency to orally interview other departments and explicitly states that no agency is liable by participating in an oral interview. The bill honors current nondisclosure agreements, but prohibits their use going forward. This bill also gives the Board power to decertify individuals if they believe certification is not appropriate, and finally the bill contains a cleanup and re-ordering of the statutes.

Other aspects of the bill include adding the Marquette University Police Department to the definition of "Law Enforcement Agency".

Senator Testin and I have introduced this bill at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Justice and it is supported the Department of Corrections, Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Marquette University, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Wisconsin Professional Police Association, and the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association.

A number of representatives from these agencies will be testifying today and are available to answer your questions.



To: Members, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
From: Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA)
Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA)
Date: November 16, 2017
RE: **Support for Assembly Bill 506, relating to the responsibilities of the Law Enforcement Standards Board**

Good morning, I am Sheriff Terry Dryden of Washburn County, speaking today on behalf of Badger State Sheriffs' Association and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association. I am here today in support of Assembly Bill 506, which will update practices of the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) and streamline hiring practices for law enforcement.

Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) is a statewide organization representing all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA) is a statewide organization representing over 1,000 members, including Sheriffs, Deputies, and jail officers. BSSA and WS&DSA have a joint legislative committee and work closely on public safety issues of concern to our members.

Under current law, the Wisconsin LESB sets standards for recruitment, education, and training for law enforcement. LESB also can certify and decertify law enforcement, tribal law enforcement, jail, or juvenile detention officers. LESB is an important regulatory body for law enforcement, ensuring minimum standards and developing valuable curriculum. AB 506 extends LESB oversight to also regulate jail and juvenile detention officer training standards, thereby further unifying minimum standards across law enforcement fields.

The bill also enhances the recruitment process for law enforcement. AB 506 will allow law enforcement hiring agencies to conduct more thorough background checks on candidates who currently hold, or have held law enforcement, jail, and/or juvenile detention officer positions elsewhere in the state.

The bill creates an "employment file" for each law enforcement officer and requires that files can be transferred after the interviewing candidate signs a written waiver authorization to disclose the candidate's employment files. Complete with job performance and disciplinary information, these files will ensure that the hiring agency has accurate information about the candidate. If the candidate refuses to sign the waiver authorizing access to their current or past employment files, they become ineligible for employment as a law enforcement or jail officer. This process ensures that information is shared and officers with a problematic history cannot hide behind non-disclosure agreements.

BSSA and WS&DSA fully support this legislation and encourage committee approval.