



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Testimony of State Senator Lena C. Taylor

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety

January 13, 2016

Senate Bill 377

Chairman Wanggaard and members of the committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important piece of legislation. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, victims can face three different types of trauma; physical, financial and emotional.

This is actually a very simple bill. Senate Bill 377 will give crime victims additional peace of mind and assist in their emotional recovery. In a 2013 report, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Statistical Analysis Center collected crime data reported to Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in the previous year. I believe their findings highlight the importance of Senate Bill 377. They found:

- 15,969 violent crimes reported in Wisconsin in 2012, including murders, forcible rapes, aggravated assaults and robberies.
- 139,102 property crimes reported in Wisconsin in 2012, including thefts, burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and arson.
- Senators, if you just consider sexual assault alone, someone in America is sexually assaulted every two minutes. And for those assaulted in Wisconsin, we can help give them peace of mind.

Current law allows crime victims to be notified when the offender who victimized them is released on parole, but it does not permit them to be notified when their parole is revoked. Senate Bill 377 addresses this gap by allowing victims to be notified when the offender is sent back to prison. This will help alleviate victims' fear that their offender is out on the streets and help restore a sense of safety.



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This is one of two Victims Rights bills I am working on. The second bill would provide victims notification of the programming their offender is undergoing while incarcerated. It is my intention to introduce that bill in the coming days.

Thank you for giving this bill a public hearing. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and I hope this committee will schedule this bill for an executive session at our next meeting, so that it may get to the floor before the end of session.