



CODY HORLACHER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 33RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-5715
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0033
Rep.Horlacher@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

December 12th, 2017

Chairman Murphy and Colleges and Universities Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on AB 701 related to establishing a crime victims legal clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

It has been my honor to work with Senator Moulton as well as our partners at DOJ, the UW Law School and various other stakeholders who have an interest in helping victims of crime.

This bill was first discussed during meetings of the Legislative Council Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services, which I chaired in 2016. I am happy to continue the efforts of those who have been working to address these issues by working collaboratively to identify ways to assist those who are victims of crime.

AB 701 directs the UW Law School to work with DOJ to utilize federal Victim of Crime Act funds to defray the costs of creating and operating a victim legal clinic. This bill is intentionally broad to allow for both the UW Law School and DOJ to work to establish this clinic in the way that makes the most sense with the resources available.

This legal clinic will help provide our state's future lawyers with the opportunity to gain real world experience while still under the supervision of faculty. It is vital that students are able to work alongside attorneys helping clients navigate the complex legal system. We need to encourage students to develop a well-rounded legal background in order to be best equipped to address the complex legal needs of Wisconsinites across the state.

This bill is just another piece in the on-going discussion surrounding access to legal services. We have the opportunity to bring attention to this important issue and to work collaboratively with governmental, educational, and local leaders to develop a new program to provide learning opportunities for the next generation of attorneys.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton
To: Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 701
Relating to: establishing a crime victims legal clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School
Date: December 12, 2017

Thank you Chairman Murphy and members for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 701 this morning. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Representative Horlacher on this important piece of legislation.

Access to legal services for those who can't afford them is a growing issue in Wisconsin, prompting a 2016 Legislative Council Study Committee on the subject. Assembly Bill 701 is based on discussions from this committee and directs the UW Law School to work with the Wisconsin Department of Justice to use federal Victim of Crime Act funds to establish and operate a victims legal clinic at UW Law School.

This bill gives the Department of Justice and the UW Law School broad discretion to use available federal funds to organize the clinic and maximize the clinic's usefulness to the public and UW law students. The clinic would give law students the opportunity to provide valuable services to victims of crime while learning under the supervision of law school faculty. This would give law students critical, real-world experience navigating our complex legal system, while allowing greater access to legal services for victims of crime.

Assembly Bill 701 is a wonderful opportunity to use available federal funds to increase access to legal services while giving UW law students real world experience. Please vote to recommend passage of Assembly Bill 701 and help us establish this valuable resource.

Serving the 23rd Senate District