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*Testimony before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety*

*State Senator André Jacque*

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Chairman Wanggaard and Colleagues on the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 85, the Cyberstalking Protection Act. This common sense bi-partisan legislation was drafted at the request of victims and prosecutors from specific cases where novel criminal defenses have been asserted, in order to update Wisconsin's stalking statutes to explicitly clarify and ensure protection for victims of electronic stalking through more modern means such as text messages, email, web applications and social media.

To be clear, cyberstalking cases are currently appropriately being prosecuted under existing law, however this cyberstalking statute will further flesh out its meaning and reduce vulnerability of such prosecutions to future defense challenges. In addition, Rep. Tusler and I have included language in consultation with law enforcement stakeholders that takes into account jury instructions in related case law and updates the stalking definition so victims are able to be more fully protected under our statutes.

This legislation is supported by End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and has been vetted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. We ask that committee members support this common sense legislation to help keep Wisconsinites safe as technology continues to evolve. Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 85.