

# MARY WILLIAMS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Committees:** *Jobs, Economy and Mining (Chair) · Aging and Long-Term Care · Family Law · International Trade and Commerce · Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage · Rules · WEDC Board · WEDC Audit Board*



## Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs

Public Hearing – AB 441  
Thursday, February 27, 2014

Currently, when a person is convicted of a sex offense, the Dept. of Corrections must provide information on the internet that contains the registrant's name, physical description, address, and crime that subjects the registrant to the requirement to register as a sex offender.

Upon the offenders release from confinement, the DOC, or the Dept. of Health Services, whichever has authority over the offender, has the option to notify local authorities about the offender's release into the community. Information released to authorities lets them know where the offender is living, working, or attending school.

While Wisconsin has made great strides to protect communities from sexual predators, we can do better. It was brought to my attention by Police Chief Straetz of Park Falls, that if a predator moves to a different neighborhood within the same municipality, authorities are not notified.

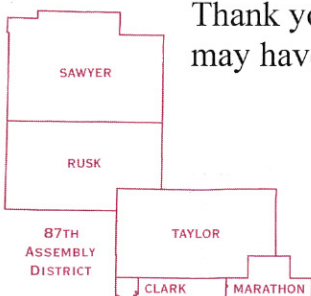
My bill will eliminate this loophole by mandating the DOC or DHS to notify local authorities, provided they already gave a notice upon the predator's arrival, if a designated predator moves. Without this change, predators are able to move undetected within our communities once they establish residence.

Secondly, this bill will require the DOC to list any sex offense that was dismissed as part of a plea agreement. I've found that it's not uncommon for offenders to plea down in order to avoid certain penalties. If the goal of the notification system is to provide communities with as much information as possible about a potential threat moving into their neighborhood, then I believe it stands to reason they should have easy access to all pertinent information.

Thank you for your time, I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

*Working for you!*

**Serving the People of Sawyer, Rusk, Taylor, Clark, and Marathon Counties**



**Office:** P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol · Madison, WI 53708-8953

**Phone:** (608) 266-7506 · **Fax:** (608) 282-3687 · **Toll-free:** (888) 534-0087 · **Rep.WilliamsM@legis.wi.gov**

**District:** 542 Billings Avenue · Medford, WI 54451 · (715) 748-5980