



## REPRESENTATIVE JANET BEWLEY

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

### **Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice Public Hearing - Assembly Bill 165 October 10, 2013**

Good Morning Chairman Kleefisch and Committee Members. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this morning and want to thank Representative Kleefisch for scheduling this public hearing on AB 165 and for working with me on the bill. As you may know, Rep. Kleefisch has proposed an amendment to the bill, which I fully support and will briefly explain at the end of my testimony.

Last fall, I was contacted by a constituent of mine, Paul Stein, who retired from the Duluth Police Department, but now lives in Maple Wisconsin and runs the Woof N Hoof Kennel. Paul was concerned that Wisconsin's recently passed Conceal Carry law did not authorize the Department of Justice to issue certification cards to retired law enforcement officers who reside in Wisconsin but worked for an out-of-state law enforcement agency.

When I looked into it, I found out this was true. In what appears to be an unintentional oversight, the legislation we passed last session authorized DOJ to issue certification cards to former Wisconsin state and local law enforcement agency employees and former federal law enforcement agency employees but not to those who retired from an out-of-state law enforcement agency.

After talking with Paul, I agreed to introduce this legislation to allow all qualified former law enforcement officers who call Wisconsin home the same opportunity to obtain certification cards in Wisconsin. The bill is simple and straightforward. Law enforcement officers who retire from out of state agencies and live in Wisconsin who satisfy the same standards and requirements as those who retired from Wisconsin and Federal agencies will be treated the same under the bill. I am pleased that a diverse and bipartisan group of legislators chose to cosponsor the bill and hope you will be able to support it as well.

As I mentioned, Representative Kleefisch has introduced an amendment that addresses the plight of retired law enforcement officers who retired from an agency that no longer exists. Under our Concealed Carry laws, if the law enforcement agency they worked for no longer exists, the former officer cannot fulfill the requirements and obtain a certification card. Representative Kleefisch's amendment adds language that allows the officer to obtain a card from the law enforcement agency that assumed the responsibilities and duties of the law enforcement agency that he or she previously worked for. I think his amendment compliments the purpose of my bill, which is to provide a level playing field for former law enforcement officers when it comes to our concealed carry laws.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.



74th Assembly District