



Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc.

In honor of those who have died, dedicated to those who live and serve

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February 27, 2014

Senator Jerry Petrowski, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs
Room 123 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: AB-208, Special registration plates expressing support for the family members of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty

Dear Senator Petrowski:

My name is Craig Kolbeck. I am the Chairman of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc. (WLEM) which was officially founded in 1990. Our membership is comprised of active and retired Wisconsin law enforcement officers, the survivors of deceased officers, and other supportive community members. The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial strives to honor Wisconsin law enforcement officers who were lost in the line of duty. The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial funded and designed the memorial wall located on the North Hamilton approach of the State Capitol. The Memorial currently contains the names of 263 Wisconsin law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Each year our non-profit organization hosts an annual memorial ceremony at the memorial site honoring our fallen officers and features the inscription on the memorial wall, of new names of officers fallen in the past year.

In addition to the above functions, the WLEM provides support and information to law enforcement officers, law enforcement agencies, survivors of fallen officers, and community groups who need help adjusting to and dealing with a line of duty death of a law enforcement officer. Hence, we are proud to publicly endorse and support this bill. The WLEM is also willing to assist in the design of this registration plate honoring our fallen Wisconsin officers and their survivors. I wish to thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity to express our support for AB-208.

Sincerely,

Craig Kolbeck, Chair

Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial, Inc.

**Wisconsin State Senate
By Officer Martin Schramper
Menasha Police Department
February 27th, 2014**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, Thank you for this opportunity to present to you concerning a law enforcement memorial license plate in Wisconsin.

My name is Martin Schramper and I am a Police Officer with the Menasha Police Department. I am here to express my support along with the support of the Menasha Police Benevolent Association for Assembly Bill 208, which is designed to allow any citizen to express support for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Currently there are at least six (6) other states, including: Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, and New Jersey that have Memorial License Plates. I have an exhibit here showing some samples of those plates. According to the National Memorial staff there are at least three (3) other states that are currently considering Memorial Plates.

Established in 1984, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund honors the service and sacrifice of every law enforcement officer from city, county, state and federal agencies that have died in the line of duty protecting their community. This includes 261 law enforcement officers from Wisconsin.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is located in historical Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. Sadly this memorial will never be completed as names from across the country are added yearly. The National

Memorial's logo, the red rose lying across a blue shield is recognized nationally and internationally and is the single most recognized symbol honoring the sacrifice of men and women who have given their lives in the line of duty. In addition, this symbol gives family members and colleagues peace of mind knowing their fallen loved one will always be honored and remembered.

I have also prepared a graphic of a sample plate that can be considered for the State of Wisconsin. On this license plate great care was taken to incorporate Wisconsin's standard design for specialty plates and add some unique features that honor law enforcement.

- Underscoring Wisconsin across the top is a "thin blue line"; an internationally recognized symbol which signifies the thin line between order and chaos. This symbol joins together all law enforcement professionals and honors the sacrifice so many have made.
- On the left side is the "Rose and Shield" honoring the service and sacrifice of all law enforcement professionals who have died in the line of duty. In addition to appearing at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the National Memorial's logo of the "Rose and Shield" appears on law enforcement memorials, police stations, honor guard uniforms and patches, and in meeting halls all across America. This logo also appears on the other states memorial license plates.
- Finally, on the bottom, a slogan which speaks to the service that law enforcement officers provide to the community to keep each and every one of us safe and secure.

I have received the endorsement of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and provided to the Assembly committee on Transportation a copy of a letter signed by their Director of Law Enforcement Relations, John Shanks. The National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial fund is allowing us to use the "Rose and Shield" logo specifically on our new Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial License Plate.

In closing, I would like to recognize that Wisconsin's law enforcement community does not have a specialty plate. We are ready to join EMTs, Paramedics, Firefighters, military services, sports teams, and universities with our very own license plate that will not only honor the service and sacrifice of our fallen heroes, but will also raise public awareness to support Wisconsin's law enforcement community.

It has been my honor to address this committee today and I can answer any questions that you may have.