

Testimony on 2017 Assembly Bill 381 / Senate Bill 480

Senator Robert Cowles

Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs - December 5, 2017

Thank you Chairman Petrowski and committee members for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 480. This bill will allow the already existing Law Enforcement Memorial Fund specialized license plates to collect annual voluntary payments upon new issuances or renewals of these specialized license plates.

Simply put, this bill allows the Law Enforcement Memorial Fund to raise funds, similar to other groups who currently raise funds through specialized license plates. Some examples of groups who already raise funds through these plates include Ducks Unlimited, the Green Bay Packers, the Lions Foundation, the UW System, and the Wisconsin Professional Golfers Association. Under Senate Bill 480, the donation for specialized plate holders would be \$10 per year or \$20 for two years. With Senate Amendment 1, which was added in the Assembly Committee process to add uniformity with other specialized license plates, those fees would be \$25 per year or \$50 for two years.

There are two organizations who would benefit from these donations. The first is the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial. This non-profit organization relies on donations and membership fees to maintain the monument to fallen officers outside the North doors of the Capitol, organize the annual law enforcement memorial ceremony, and provide support and information to families, colleagues, and communities who are dealing with a death in the line-of-duty.

The second organization, who would evenly split the specialized license plate donation revenue, is the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This non-profit organization is based out of Washington D.C., and has the mission of telling the story of American Law Enforcement and making it safer for those who serve. The funds given to this national organization would be required to be spent in Wisconsin.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to all of our law enforcement officers, but we owe a special debt to the law enforcement officers who gave their life in the line-of-duty. For more than 25 years, the two beneficiary organizations of this bill have proven their commitment to recognizing and commemorating the tragedies of fallen officers, to serve those affected by these tragedies, and try to prevent future tragedies from happening. By allowing the Law Enforcement Memorial Fund to have a funding source through already existing specialized license plates, we will help to ensure that these groups have the resources necessary to continue their mission of serving those who serve us for years to come.

The Assembly companion to SB 480, AB 381, has already passed the Assembly as amended on a voice vote during a floor session on November 9th. This legislation is supported by a bipartisan coalition of legislators, the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Wisconsin Professional Police Association, and the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association.



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Prepared Testimony by Rep. David Steffen before the
Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs
Assembly Bill 381/Senate Bill 480: Law Enforcement Memorial License Plates
December 5, 2017**

Chairman Petrowski and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 381/Senate Bill 480 relating to: voluntary payments associated with special distinguishing registration plates expressing support for the family members of law enforcement officers who have died in the line-of-duty. This simple, bipartisan bill attaches a funding option to the Law Enforcement Memorial Fund license plate, thereby allowing this specialty plate to raise funds, similar to many other specialty plates in Wisconsin, to be used towards furthering the Memorial's efforts.

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial Fund and the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund are both non-profit organizations that provide financial support to the families of fallen law enforcement officers immediately following a line-of-duty death. Beyond these efforts, the organizations have built and maintain stone memorials on Wisconsin's capitol square and in Washington D.C. as a permanent tribute to our fallen heroes. The Law Enforcement Memorial Fund serves one of the most deserving groups of individuals, the families of fallen officers. Yet the specialty plate that recognizes the Memorial, currently does nothing to assist it.

AB 381/SB 480 attaches a \$10 donation per license plate, which will be shared equally between the Wisconsin and National Law Enforcement Memorial Funds, with a requirement that all revenue be spent in Wisconsin. Assembly Amendment 1 to AB 381 and Senate Amendment 1 to SB 480, increase the donation per plate from \$10 to \$25. This adjustment is the result of input from the Assembly Transportation Committee, which determined a donation value of \$25/plate was appropriate considering other similar specialty plates set their rate at \$25/plate.

It is very likely that individuals who have purchased this specialty plate thought they were already supporting these organizations. AB 381/SB 480 ensure that the specialty Law Enforcement Memorial Fund license plates provide financial support to these organizations, and in turn, to the families of fallen officers.

This legislation does not create a new specialty plate, rather it allows the Law Enforcement Memorial plate to join the many other specialty plates (Donate Life Wisconsin, Inc., Celebrate Children Foundation, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, UW System Scholarship programs, etc.), that currently raise financial support for their organizations.

This bipartisan bill is supported by the Wisconsin and National Law Enforcement Memorial Funds, as well as the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, WI Chiefs of Police Association, WI Professional Police Association, and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association. AB 381 as amended by Assembly Amendment 1 passed unanimously out of the Assembly Committee on Transportation on October 16, 2017 and passed the full Assembly chamber by a voice vote on November 9, 2017. I encourage the Committee to join in supporting the honorable efforts of this memorial.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of AB 381/SB 480. Please support this important legislation.

License Plate Name	Price	Organization that benefits
Celebrate Children	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Celebrate Children Foundation.	Celebrate Children Foundation.
Donate Life Wisconsin	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to Donate Life Wisconsin	Donate Life Wisconsin Inc.
Ducks Unlimited	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to Ducks Unlimited	Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Endangered Resources	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Endangered Resources Fund.	Wisconsin DNR
Freemasons	\$15 annual fee	No money goes to the Freemasons.
Golf Wisconsin	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Wisconsin Professional Golfers Association and the Dept. of Tourism.	the WPGA receives 75% of money collected while the Dept. of Tourism collects 25%
Green Bay Packers	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the GPF for the purposes of maintaining Lambeau Field.	Green Bay Packers
Harley Davidson/Share the Road	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the DOT for the purposes of motorcycle safety courses	Wisconsin DOT (Harley Davidson receives nothing)
In God We Trust	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the WDVA	Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.
Lao Veterans of America	\$15 annual fee	No money goes to the Lao Veterans of America Inc.
Law Enforcement Memorial	\$15 annual fee	No money goes to either the National Memorial or the Wisconsin Memorial

Lions Foundation	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation	Wisconsin Lions Foundation Inc.
Marquette University	\$15 annual fee	No money goes to Marquette
Milwaukee Brewers	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District	Money received goes towards paying of the Miller Park Construction Debt
	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation that goes towards the construction costs of the Milwaukee entertainment district and to the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation	Milwaukee Bucks
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation of Wisconsin	Wisconsin Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Trout Unlimited	\$15 annual fee+ \$25 annual donation to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited	Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
UW System	\$15 annual fee + \$20 annual donation to the campus of your choosing	UW System
Whitetails Unlimited	\$15 annual fee + \$20 annual donation to Whitetails Unlimited	Whitetails Unlimited
Wisconsin Salutes Veterans	\$15 annual fee	Fee is transfer to the WDVVA's Veterans Trust Fund
Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation	\$15 annual fee + \$25 annual donation to Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation	Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation

License plate name	Group that Benefits	Total amount of money to group	Number of Plates issued
Celebrate Children	Celebrate Children Foundation	\$ 84,950.00	3398
Donate Life	Donate Life Wisconsin Inc.	\$ 18,411.00	736
Ducks Unlimited	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	\$ 33,500.00	1340
Endangered Resources	Wisconsin DNR	\$ 394,768.94	15790
Golf Wisconsin	WPGA Receives 75% Dept. of Tourism receives 25%	\$ 12,675.00	507
Green Bay Packers	Lambeau Field District	\$ 420,695.00	16827
Harley Davidson	Wisconsin DOT for the purposes of motorcycle safety	\$ 85,705.00	3428
In God We Trust	Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs	\$ 35,800.00	1432
Law Enforcement Memorial	None Currently		941
Lions Foundation	Lions Foundation Inc.	\$ 6,350.00	254
Milwaukee Brewers	Miller Park Construction Debt	\$ 244,837.50	9793
Trout Unlimited	Wisconsin Trout Unlimited	\$ 7,800.00	312
UW System	UW System Scholarship programs	\$ 187,200.00	7488
Women's Health Foundation	Wisconsin's Women's Health Foundation	\$ 6,850.00	274
Total		\$ 1,539,542.44	62520

Plates not listed here either have no FY16 data or do not receive a fundraising donation currently.

All data is from the DOT.

There are 941 LEM plate issued as of January.

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
Type for the Calendar Year ending 2016**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:	
AMA	1,032			1,715	2,747	
AMC		55			55	
ANT	2,965	6		1,070	4,041	
AUT	1,953,028			1,546,883	3,499,911	
BUS				13,906	13,906	
CLS	1,854			1,849	3,703	
CMC		21,419			21,419	
COL	129,446			40,838	170,284	
CVG	567			1,395	1,962	
CYC		262,898			262,898	
DIS	14,687			23,640	38,327	
DMC		733			733	
DUK	147			1,102	1,249	
EMT	293			438	731	
END	3,799			5,881	9,680	
ENN	2,073			3,552	5,625	
FFO	564			2,060	2,624	
FRF	1,399			6,635	8,034	
FRM	1			60,875	60,876	
FTL			17,259		17,259	
GLF	226			264	490	
GST	173			270	443	
HAR	948			2,438	3,386	
HEG	503			594	1,097	
HEM	3,336			4,706	8,042	
HFM				3	9,655	9,658
HMC		819			819	
HMM		11			11	
HMV	11		15	435	461	
HOB	11,437			6,212	17,649	
HSV	5			891	896	
Sum:	2,163,779	334,950	508,577	2,863,996	5,871,302	

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
Type for the Calendar Year ending 2016**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:
HTK			1	99,848	99,849
IGT	573			894	1,467
KID	1,146			1,998	3,144
LCF	86			161	247
LEM	365			570	935
LIF	313			419	732
LSV	387			115	502
LTK	271			898,562	898,833
LTL			3,647		3,647
MBK	100			94	194
MBN	1,707			2,171	3,878
MBO	2,302			3,177	5,479
MDH	2			3	5
MGP	202			367	569
MLG	7,369			14,703	22,072
MNC		238			238
MPD		46,414			46,414
MRQ	791			1,000	1,791
MTM			2	19,737	19,739
MUN	2,524	12	4,615	43,529	50,680
OFF	3,088		47	3,389	6,524
ONI	219	44	6	409	678
PAK	5,111			11,123	16,234
RVT			96,055		96,055
SES				1	1
SOV	994	4	1,033	4,453	6,484
SPT	433			781	1,214
SPX	53		9	1,177	1,239
STL	2		274,906	5	274,913
TMP	5,804			7,083	12,887
TOR				7,630	7,630
TRL			110,979		110,979
TRT	81			265	346
VET	906			2,428	3,334
VMC		2,295			2,295
WHF	133			131	264
Sum:	2,163,779	334,950	508,577	2,863,996	5,871,302

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
Type for the Calendar Year ending 2016**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:
WNG	201			383	584
XPW	120			69	189
	2	2		17	21
Sum:	2,163,779	334,950	508,577	2,863,996	5,871,302

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
Type for the Calendar Year ending 2015**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:	
AMA	1,080			1,719	2,799	
AMC		53			53	
ANT	2,962	6		1,077	4,045	
APO				1	1	
AUT	2,003,650			1,467,640	3,471,290	
BUS				13,512	13,512	
CLS	1,913			1,816	3,729	
CMC		19,803			19,803	
COL	125,865			38,683	164,548	
CVG	666			1,480	2,146	
CYC		286,791			286,791	
DIS	14,866			22,161	37,027	
DMC		748			748	
DUK	150			1,146	1,296	
EMT	285			334	619	
END	4,152			6,137	10,289	
ENN	1,765			2,592	4,357	
FFO	511			1,643	2,154	
FRF	1,603			6,966	8,569	
FRM	1			63,937	63,938	
FTL			17,352		17,352	
GLF	236			261	497	
GST	172			266	438	
HAR	937			2,113	3,050	
HEG	533			596	1,129	
HEM	3,391			4,403	7,794	
HFM				1	9,754	9,755
HMC		773			773	
HMM		11			11	
HMV	10		11	383	404	
HOB	10,967			5,870	16,837	
Sum:	2,211,526	365,878	487,177	2,755,294	5,819,875	

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
Type for the Calendar Year ending 2015**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:
HSV	6			846	852
HTK				97,536	97,536
IGT	375			517	892
KID	1,273			2,124	3,397
LCF	96			165	261
LEM	218			346	564
LIF	282			360	642
LSV	418			121	539
LTK	284			878,401	878,685
LTL			3,499		3,499
MBN	1,723			2,083	3,806
MBO	2,486			3,078	5,564
MDH	2			4	6
MGP	205			370	575
MLG	7,623			14,049	21,672
MNC		238			238
MPD		55,055			55,055
MRQ	838			933	1,771
MTM			3	19,563	19,566
MUN	2,580	12	4,397	42,608	49,597
OFF	3,309		45	2,962	6,316
ONI	211	58	6	388	663
PAK	5,341			10,835	16,176
RVT			90,821		90,821
SOV	1,002	4	1,021	4,432	6,459
SPT	461			723	1,184
SPX	45		9	1,093	1,147
STL	2		264,392	5	264,399
TMP	5,518	1		6,110	11,629
TOR				7,930	7,930
TRL			105,620		105,620
TRT	67			170	237
VET	958			2,353	3,311
VMC		2,323			2,323
WHF	128			140	268
WNG	209			389	598
Sum:	2,211,526	365,878	487,177	2,755,294	5,819,875

**Wisconsin Department Of Transportation Valid
 Vehicle Registered by Vehicle Type Within Plate
 Type for the Calendar Year ending 2015**

Vehicle Type Plate Type	AUTO	CYCL	TRLR	TRUK	Sum:
XPW	146			77	223
	5	2		93	100
Sum:	2,211,526	365,878	487,177	2,755,294	5,819,875