



Tod Ohnstad

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Contact: Rep. Ohnstad, 608-266-0455

Rep. Ohnstad To Propose Hate Crime Hotline Legislation

Bill would establish hotline for Wisconsin citizens to report suspected hate crimes

MADISON – Representative Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) today began circulating legislation to establish a toll-free Hate Crime Hotline here in Wisconsin. Along with Senator LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Ohnstad is circulating this proposal to target and combat hate crime activity that is unfortunately increasingly common.

“Establishing an official Hate Crime Hotline will give all Wisconsinites another tool to report suspected hate crimes and remind everyone that hate is neither welcome nor tolerated in our great state,” said Rep. Ohnstad upon circulating the legislation for co-sponsorship.

Rep. Ohnstad’s bill would direct the Wisconsin Department of Justice to dedicate a toll-free hotline for Wisconsinites to call if they feel they have been a victim of a hate crime or if they feel they may have witnessed a hate crime. The hotline would not replace calling 9-1-1 in emergency situations. Rather, it would provide another tool to individuals who experience or who witness illegal bias-based behaviors. Under the bill, the Wisconsin DOJ would create and make available online a flyer advertising the hotline, which could be used and shared throughout the state.

Continued Ohnstad, “Over the past several months, we have heard multiple reports of rising levels of hate crime in our nation. Unfortunately, we are not immune to this reality here in Wisconsin. Just this weekend, a family right here in Kenosha reported being targeted due to a possible hate crime. That is absolutely unacceptable.”

Concluded Ohnstad, “Creating a Hate Crime Hotline will demonstrate in a very real way Wisconsin’s rejection of bigotry and commitment to tolerance and inclusion. It will also provide a very practical, accessible tool to everyone in our state.”

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65th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT