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Victim Prevention Package bills pass Wisconsin Assembly

Comprehensive crime legislation package receives broad support in Assembly passage

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin State Assembly passed a series of bills known as the Victim Prevention Package. Introduced by Representative Joe Sanfelippo and Senator Leah Vukmir, this comprehensive package of legislation holds criminals accountable for their actions by implementing common-sense measures to keep Wisconsin communities safe, and focusing on repeat offenders who represent an ongoing threat to our communities.

Despite Wisconsin's strong economy, plummeting unemployment, and a downward trend in national crime rates, violent crime has been on the rise throughout the state. According to the Department of Justice, from 2011 to 2015, Wisconsin saw a 72.6% increase in murders, a 2% increase in sexual assaults, a 13% increase in robberies, and a 21.5% increase in aggravated assaults, as well as a 50% jump in motor vehicle thefts from 2013.

"I've talked with countless constituents who have been impacted by the growing epidemic of violent crime in our communities. Too many people have had their lives upended by senseless violence. Too many families have had to endure the heartache of losing loved ones. Too many people have had to adapt their lives to fear of criminals on the streets and the ever-present uncertainty of whether they might be next. Enough is enough. We need to support our police and protect our communities by keeping these criminals where they belong: behind bars," said Sanfelippo.

In Milwaukee, for instance, there were 102 offenders arrested in 2016 who, collectively, had been arrested 945 times for a total of 2,658 crimes over the previous decade. Keeping career criminals like this away from innocent citizens is the focus of the Victim Prevention Package.

Daniel Berczyk of Milwaukee is 39 years old, yet has already been convicted of 38 crimes, having been charged 81 times. Despite a criminal career spanning two decades that has earned him the title of "the Moving Menace," the longest that Berczyk has spent in prison is two years.

"We need to get career criminals like Berczyk off the streets. When a repeat offender is charged with five felonies and pleads down to a year-and-a-half, like he did last year, it shows how truly broken the system is. The Victim Prevention Package targets exactly these kinds of criminals," said Sanfelippo

Having passed the Assembly, [SB 52](#), [SB 53](#), [SB 54](#), [SB 55](#), [SB 56](#), and [SB 58](#) now head to the Senate for concurrence and final approval from the Governor.

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The [15th Assembly District](#) includes most of West Allis and the Northern half of New Berlin.