



December 1, 2025

Support SB 678 to help stop drug-impaired driving

The Honorable Jesse James
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Dear Senator James,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) thanks you for authoring SB 678 to allow law enforcement to utilize roadside oral fluid screening to support the investigation of drug-impaired driving. MADD fully supports SB 678.

The problem of drug-impaired driving is not going away. From 2020-2024, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, there were 353 drug-related traffic deaths in Wisconsin, including 65 in 2024. Also during this time period, there were 6,077 drug-related traffic injuries, including 1,053 in 2024.ⁱ

Enacting SB 678 will help reverse this deadly trend, save lives, and prevent injuries to Wisconsin residents.

Seven trauma centers studied 4,243 drivers who were seriously injured in crashes and found that 54% of drivers tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs from September 2019 to July 2021. Among those who tested positive for an impairing substance, 22% of the drivers were positive for alcohol, 25% were positive for cannabis, 9% were positive for opioids, 10% were positive for stimulants, and 8% were positive for sedatives.ⁱⁱ

The use of oral fluid screening, as SB 678 allows, will serve as a tool to help law enforcement determine which substance(s) are causing the impairment that is detected by the officer's field observations and clues from Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST). Combined, this information helps support probable cause for arrest and provides a law enforcement officer with evidence to seek a search warrant for a confirmation test and/or to contact a Drug Recognition Expert.

MADD thanks you for authoring SB 678. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Erin.Doherty@madd.org or 630-541-6099. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Erin Doherty
Regional Executive Director | MADD Wisconsin, Illinois, & Iowa

C: The Honorable Van Wanggaard

ⁱ “Final year-end crash statistics,” Wisconsin DOT. <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/statistics/final.aspx>

ⁱⁱ Thomas FD, Darrah J, Graham L, Berning A, Blomberg R, Finstad K, Griggs C, Crandall M, Schulman C, Kozar R, Lai J, Mohr N, Chenoweth J, Cunningham K, Babu K, Dorfman J, Van Heukelom J, Ehsani J, Fell J, Whitehill J, Brown T, Moore C. Alcohol and Drug Prevalence Among Seriously or Fatally Injured Road Users (Report No. DOT HS 813 399) [PDF – 73 pages]. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Office of Behavioral Safety Research. December 2022. https://rosap.nhtl.bts.gov/view/dot/65623/dot_65623_DS1.pdf