



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
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March 19, 2009

The Honorable Mark Miller  
Senator, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance  
317 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
Representative, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance  
309 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Miller and Representative Pocan,

Wisconsin's budget shortfall leaves lawmakers with very difficult decisions. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is concerned that Assembly Bill 75 will endanger the public and seriously infringe on the rights of drunk driving victims. Specifically, MADD is concerned that Assembly Bill 75 may allow for early release or modified sentences of convicted drunk drivers incarcerated for multiple convictions, as well as those who killed or injured an innocent victim on Wisconsin roadways.

MADD firmly believes that anyone convicted of drunk driving should serve a complete sentence. There should be no exceptions. Drunk driving is 100 percent preventable and offenders choose to drive drunk.

Allowing for the release of drunk driving offenders before their sentences are complete poses a risk to public safety. The most conservative studies show that the average OWI offender has driven drunk 87 times before being caught. In addition, 50 to 75 percent of convicted offenders will continue to drive even on a suspended license. The probability that these offenders will reoffend and hurt possibly your family or constituents is great.

MADD is hopeful that the Wisconsin legislature will get serious in combating drunk driving by passing legislation to require ignition interlocks for all offenders, treat the first offense of drunk driving as it should be—a crime, and giving law enforcement the necessary tools to fight drunk driving by allowing sobriety checkpoints.

Wisconsin is on the cusp of passing real OWI reform. Releasing OWI offenders early will only deny justice to OWI victims and compromise public safety.

In the interest of the rights of victims and public safety, as Assembly Bill 75 is deliberated, MADD urges this committee to not allow for any provision that leads to a modification or early release of the current sentence of any convicted drunk driver.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Dean-Mooney".

Laura Dean-Mooney  
National President  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Jim Doyle, Governor, State of Wisconsin  
The Honorable Fred Risser, Senate President  
The Honorable Russell Decker, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Michael Sheridan, Assembly Speaker  
The Honorable Thomas Nelson, Assembly Majority Leader  
The Honorable Jeff Fitzgerald, Assembly Minority Leader