

For Immediate Release June 6, 2023 Contact: Rep. Nik Rettinger (608) 267-9183

Rep. Rettinger Bill to Close Child Sex Crimes Loophole Passes Assembly Unanimously

Freshman Legislator Also Votes to Strengthen Financial Literacy, Support Farmers

Madison – Southeastern Wisconsin freshman lawmaker Representative Nik Rettinger (R-Mukwonago) proudly watched his third bill, which updates the definition of "sexual contact" for crimes against children and sexual assault, pass unanimously through the Assembly. Following passage of Assembly Bill 166, Rep. Rettinger said:

"This commonsense legislation carries out the spirit of the law intended by previous Legislatures to protect the most innocent of our society. We do the best we can to look forward to prevent future criminal activity, but as loopholes are found and exploited it's our job to act to close them. I'm glad that my colleagues overwhelmingly agreed with me. Thank you to Senator Patrick Testin for his leadership on this issue and for authoring the bill's Senate companion. Holding criminals accountable is always important, but we need to ensure people who commit heinous acts against children be prosecuted to the fullest possible extent. I look forward to the Senate taking up the bill."

Assembly Bill 166 enjoyed bipartisan co-sponsorship. In addition, it passed out of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice with a unanimous vote. The Senate companion legislation (Senate Bill 149) is currently in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. Rep. Rettinger also voted in favor of the Farm Equipment Lemon Law bill and the Student Financial Literacy Enhancement bill today. Following the conclusion of the floor session, Rep. Rettinger said the following:

"I have heard from people in the district that strongly support the addition of a financial literacy class to high school graduation requirements. Far too often, people make the jump into the adult world without knowledge of basic financial successes strategies such as starting an emergency fund or balancing a household budget. The difference between a debit card and credit card. How to build and maintain good credit. In fact, 75% of American teens lack confidence in their knowledge of personal finance. This half credit class will go a long way in changing that."

"Additionally, the Farm Equipment Lemon Law is another way the Legislature can show its support for our farmers. Our family farms are already under incredible strain and when incredibly expensive new equipment continuously malfunctions despite warranty repair efforts, it could make or break their bottom line. This bill mirrors the current lemon laws for vehicles, which has been in place since 1984 and puts on similar footing to our neighbors in Illinois and Minnesota."

###

The 83rd Assembly District includes portions of Waukesha, Racine, and Walworth Counties including the municipalities of Mukwonago, Big Bend, Vernon, Waterford, East Troy, Troy, & Troy Center, and portions of Muskego.