



AWARE Coalition Members

Affinity Health System
Aurora Health Care
Bay Area Community Council
Beloit Memorial Hospital
BRAVO is Building Responsible Alcohol Values and Options
Children's Hospital and Health System
Columbia County Connects
Dane County
Edgerton Coalition for a Health Community
Focus on Community, Racine
Froedtert & Community Health
Gundersen Lutheran
La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
Madison Mayor's Office
Marathon County Alcohol & Other Drugs Partnership Council
Marathon County Health Department
Marshfield Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical Students for Legislative Action
Meriter Health Services
Milwaukee Deputy Sheriffs Association
Ministry Health Care
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
National Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors
Reedsburg Area Medical Center
Resource Center on Impaired Driving
Rock County Youth2Youth
Rogers Behavioral Health System
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
St. Joseph's Community Health Services, Hillsboro
Southern Alliance Regional Council (SARC)
Unity Health Insurance
UW Health
Watertown Parent Advisory on Underage Drinking
WI Alcohol & Drug Treatment Providers Association
WI Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
WI Association on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse
WI Association of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Counselors
WI Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
WI County Police Association
WI District Attorneys Association
WI Hospital Association
WI Medical Society
WI Nurses Association
WI Prevention Network
WI Public Health Association
WI Public Health Council
WI Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association
WI State Laboratory of Hygiene
WPS Health Insurance

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: LISA MARONEY, AWARE & UW HEALTH 265-1653

DATE: JUNE 4, 2009

RE: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 66 WITH CHANGES

On behalf of the AWARE Coalition representing over 50 different state-wide groups supporting legislation to reduce drunk driving and underage drinking and increase alcohol treatment and prevention programs, we support Senator Jim Sullivan's comprehensive drunk driving legislation, Senate Bill 66.

SB 66 begins to solve the high rate of drinking and driving in Wisconsin and bringing some of our penalties more in line with other states and enacting Ignition Interlock Devices requirements. We would urge the committee to adopt an amendment on IID requiring installation for first time offenders with BAC of .15 or higher.

We believe this is a constructive start but more needs to be done, especially to reduce the staggering statistic from WI DOT stating that **nearly two thirds of the fatal or serious injury crashes involving alcohol were caused by those never before arrested for operating while intoxicated.** National research indicates that the main deterrent to people driving drunk is the fear of being caught. AWARE believes more could be done in this area.

AWARE would respectfully request an amendment to this comprehensive bill that would prohibit insurance companies from denying claims for accident victims who test positive for alcohol or other drugs. If an insurance company denies a claim due to a person drinking, a health care providers still renders the care and ultimately we all pay for this through higher premiums. An increasing number of states prohibit insurance companies from denying claims.

We look forward to working with you on this legislation and would be happy to provide additional information. Thank you.