

Sen. Wanggaard: Gov. Evers' administration ignoring victims' constitutional rights

Posted on Friday, Oct 7, 2022

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MADISON – Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) is expressing outrage that crime victims' constitutional rights are being clearly and deliberately ignored by Governor Tony Evers and his Parole Commission. Wanggaard was the senate author of Wisconsin's Crime Victims' Rights Amendment, popularly known as "Marsy's Law." "Voters overwhelmingly approved Marsy's Law to make sure crime victims were informed and had a voice in parole hearings," said Wanggaard. "It's clear as day. Victims have the constitutional right to attend hearings or have a voice. The Governor doesn't get to be "open to" it, and his appointees don't get to decide whether victims have that right. It's not just the law, it's the Constitution!" Wanggaard sent a public letter to Governor Evers today, after reading that Evers was "open to giving victims a 'voice at the table' with Wisconsin's parole system. 1 " This follows Acting Parole Commission Chair, Christopher Blythe, not allowing public comment at his first meeting. 2 Late last month, it was discovered the previous chairman, John Tate, believed it was up to him if victims' could attend parole hearings 3 . WisconsinRightNow.com also discovered that many

crime victims were not notified of the parole of the person who caused them harm. “This is blatant disregard for the Wisconsin Constitution and crime victims’ rights,” said

Wanggaard. “I worked for five years to make sure crime victims had a constitutional right to be heard and attend hearings – including at parole. Evers and his staff don’t get to ignore it. They must enforce it.”