

Sen. Jacque: Stillbirth tax credit bill moves to governor's desk

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MADISON, WI... Bipartisan legislation authored by Senator André Jacque (New Franken) to provide state recognition to stillbirth parents overwhelmingly passed the State Senate on Tuesday with a 32-1 vote, and is now headed to the desk of Governor Tony Evers.

In response to the testimony over the last several sessions shared by mothers who have endured this tragedy, Sen. Jacque reintroduced legislation to provide financial support to those who have endured stillbirth. [Assembly Bill 373](#), authored along with Rep. Lindee Brill (Sheboygan Falls), provides a \$2,000 nonrefundable individual income tax credit to parents of stillborn children.

“This bill speaks to a kind of loss that is often invisible, deeply painful, and too often endured in silence,” said Jacque. “The stillbirth of a child is not simply a medical event. It is the loss of a son or daughter, of hopes and plans, of a future that a family had already begun to imagine and love.”

In Wisconsin, over 300 mothers each year must endure the trauma of stillbirth. These parents experience many of the same expenses of newborn parents, such as delivery costs. They also have other expenses such as funeral costs, counseling, and lost time at work, while not necessarily having access to the same maternity leave benefits of other mothers.

“Although nothing can compensate for the loss of a child, establishing this tax credit will alleviate some of the financial burden stillbirth parents face, while giving meaningful, statutory recognition to the loss of their child,” said Jacque.

AB 373 unanimously passed the Assembly on a 98-0 vote last month.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.