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Two of Senator Jacque's Public Safety Bills Pass State Senate

(Madison, WI) Today two of Senator André Jacque's (R – De Pere) bills passed the State Senate.

Senate Bill 47 treats trespassing to commit battery with the seriousness it deserves, increasing the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony so that the law will no longer value property over people. Under state law, committing a property crime like stealing tools from a garage is treated as a felony, while breaking in or otherwise gaining entry to lie in wait to beat them senseless is generally only able to be charged as a misdemeanor. The bill has particular applicability to prosecuting gang violence and domestic violence by former intimate partners. *"I am thankful that the need for this legislation was brought to my attention by prosecutors. SB 47 provides a common-sense fix to remove the disproportionate prioritization of property crimes over public safety,"* Senator Jacque said.

Senate Bill 511 helps law enforcement and firefighters access treatment for work-related post-traumatic stress injuries through Wisconsin's workers compensation program. It will also reduce the long-term costs of duty disability and training new personnel. *"With increasing suicide rates for first responders outpacing on-duty deaths, it is clear that we must eliminate the stigma attached to PTSD and provide the support our public safety personnel need for their health and those who depend on them. The Public Safety PTSD Coverage Act will replace an impossible standard with one that will ensure public safety employees receive vital treatment,"* Senator Jacque said.

Both bills passed with unanimous bipartisan support.

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

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