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Rep. Vorpagel Votes to Hold Criminals Accountable and Support Law Enforcement

Madison- State Representative Tyler Vorpagel (R-Plymouth) and Legislative Republicans approved increased penalties and reforms to ensure violent and repeat criminals are not released into our communities. Legislation supporting law enforcement and recruitment efforts statewide also passed the Assembly today.

"We have seen an unacceptable rise in violent crime in Wisconsin, driven in part by the refusal of some local officials to hold criminals accountable and keep them locked up," said Rep. Vorpagel. "The legislation we passed today sets additional mandatory penalties for violent offenders, repeat criminals, coordinated smash-and-grab crimes, and destruction of monuments and statues."

Similar to bills passed by Republicans in the Legislature back in 2019, the package voted on today includes:

- additional criminal penalties for coordinated "smash and grab" crimes
- mandatory minimum sentence for three or more retail theft convictions
- ensuring felons in possession of firearms are prosecuted
- preventing violent criminals from earning early release from prison or parole
- make it a felony to damage structures, plaques, statues, paintings, or other monument of commemorative or historical significance

"From the horrific attack in Waukesha to the near daily news coming out of Milwaukee, far too many communities and families are having their lives upended by criminals who shouldn't be out on the street," added Vorpagel. "If Governor Evers is truly serious about solving the crime problem, he will sign these bills into law."

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