



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

October 7, 2022

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Governor Evers,

In April of 2020, the people of Wisconsin gave constitutional rights to crime victims, by ratifying Article I, Section 9m of Wisconsin's Constitution, commonly referred to as "Marsy's Law." I have attached Article I, Section 9m of the Wisconsin Constitution to this letter.

In just the last week, I have seen comments from you, your former Parole Commission Chairman, John Tate, and your acting Chairman, Christopher Blythe, that indicate that your administration is ignoring the constitutional rights of crime victims in regard to parole hearings.

For clarity, I will share an excerpt of Article 1, Section 9m:

"Article I, Section 9m (2) - In order to preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process, victims shall be entitled to all of the following rights...

(2)(e) – Upon request, to attend all proceedings involving the case.

(2)(g) – Upon request, to reasonable and timely notification of proceedings.

(2)(i) – Upon request, to be heard in any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated, including release,...parole,...or pardon."

(emphasis added)

As the legislative author of Marsy's Law in Wisconsin, I can assure you that every word was debated and chosen with a specific purpose including the ones I have underlined above.

While your administration has stymied my efforts to obtain parole records thus far, I learned of victims' rights being ignored in comments by you personally, and your former and current Parole Commission Chairs. WisconsinRightNow.com, who apparently has received some records, has

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spoken with crime victims. A shocking number of victims are saying that they were not notified of a parole hearing or an early release from prison.

Governor, you took an oath to uphold the Wisconsin Constitution – that includes Marsy's Law.
You have an obligation to make sure your employees do the same.

Please let me know in the next week what steps you will be taking to correct the Parole Commission's ignoring of the Wisconsin's Constitution.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Van Wanggaard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Van Wanggaard

Lead Senate Author of Marsy's Law

Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety