



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2006

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Day of Legislative Victories for Sexual Assault Survivors

Madison – Today at the State Capitol, Governor Doyle signed a series of bills that will benefit victims and survivors of sexual assault and will strengthen measures for holding offenders accountable.

“What a great day,” said Linda Morrison, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA). “Having these bills signed into law on the National Day to End Sexual Violence is truly meaningful for victims, survivors, and advocates.”

WCASA supported all of the sexual assault-related legislation signed by the Governor this morning and worked actively on two bills in particular. SB 341 will protect the identity of victims of sexual violence by giving them the option to make their voter registration records confidential. AB 636 will allow victims of sexual violence to obtain a restraining order against their perpetrator after a single sexual assault occurrence.

Six additional bills directly impacting victims of sexual assault were also signed into law today.

- AB 708 allows judges to sentence offenders who commit a second offense of first-degree sexual assault to life in prison.
- SB 569 requires offenders convicted of fourth-degree sexual assault, exposing oneself to a child, or forcing a child to expose him/herself to submit a DNA sample.
- SB 349 broadens the protection of children in non-school settings from sexual abuse.
- AB 47 eliminates time limits for reporting first-degree sexual assault of a child or first-degree sexual assault when DNA evidence is collected.

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- AB 444 expands the definition of sexual contact to maintain consistency across the sexual assault laws.
- AB 511 expands protections from sexual abuse for children in foster care and group facilities.

“It’s a huge success to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month with such strong, victim-supportive legislation,” added Morrison. “We’re grateful to the Governor for signing this legislation and to all the Legislators who worked so hard to bring these bills to his desk.”

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