
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 14, 2009

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Common Council Says "Yes" to Push Bill Requiring Child Care Van Safety Alarms

Council Votes to Take Active Support Stance on Senate Bill 141

The Milwaukee Common Council today voted 14-0 to authorize city lobbyists to push for the passage of Wisconsin Senate Bill 141 – legislation requiring that electronic seat check reminders be installed on child care vehicles.

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, who sponsored the Council resolution with **Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.**, said she believes strongly that the proposed state law, authored by **Sen. Spencer Coggs** and co-sponsored on the Assembly side by **Rep. Tamara Grigsby**, can help reduce or eliminate the tragic deaths of helpless children left in child care vehicles. "Since 1991 seven children left behind and trapped in child care vehicles have died in Milwaukee, and we are saying it's time we do something proactively to save children and to prevent this type of thing from happening again," she said, noting that the safety alarm could have prevented the death last week of a four-month-old Milwaukee boy left inside a van in the parking lot of a northwest side child care facility.

"As we head into the hot summer months, time is of the essence to make this safety requirement the law in Wisconsin – it just makes good sense," the alderwoman said.

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Council Approves Safety Alarm Push/ADD ONE

Two Council members – Aldermen **Michael J. Murphy** and **Willie C. Wade** – asked that they be added as cosponsors of the Council resolution (file #081574).

Senate Bill 141 would require installation of electronic seat check reminder systems (also known as “child safety alarms”) that sound an alarm and illuminate the interior of the child care vehicle when it is parked unless the vehicle operator disarms the alarm by activating a switch located at the rear of the vehicle's passenger compartment. The bill defines “child care vehicles” as vehicles with a seating capacity of six or more passengers, in addition to the driver, that “are owned or leased by a child care provider or a contractor of a child care provider and used to transport children to and from a child care provider.”

Sen. Coggs said the requirement is a reasonable and responsible approach, and he applauded the Common Council for acting quickly. “This adds to the mounting public support we’ve seen for this legislation. I applaud the unanimous vote and I appreciate the authorization for the city to throw its support behind the bill. This will help our case in the Legislature,” he said.

A joint public hearing on the state legislation will be held in room 417 North (Grand Army of the Republic) of the State Capitol in Madison at **1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22.**