



April 13, 2009

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
(414) 286-2994
Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-3787

MEDIA ADVISORY

Common Council to Seek Passage of Bill Requiring Child Care Van Safety Check *Council Legislation on Agenda Tomorrow Supporting Senate Bill 141*

The Milwaukee Common Council will likely vote tomorrow to authorize city lobbyists to push for the passage of Wisconsin Senate Bill 141 – legislation requiring electronic seat check reminders on child care vehicles. The measure will be taken up during the Council’s regular meeting at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, April 14) in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Authored by **Sen. Spencer Coggs** of Milwaukee, Senate Bill 141 would require installation of electronic seat check reminder systems (also known as “child safety alarms”) that prompt child care vehicle operators to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting. 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.”

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, who sponsored the Council resolution with **Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.**, said requiring such safety alarms could prevent tragic deaths of children left in child care vehicles – including 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 a parent I know there’s nothing more important than making sure a child is safe at all times, but right now there’s nothing in place requiring child care operators or contractors to have safety systems in place to make sure children are removed from vehicles,” she said.

“The children who are sadly left in the vehicles are helpless, and their parents and loved ones are also helpless because of the lack of required safeguards,” the alderwoman said. “This legislation will hopefully add strength to the push to get this legislation approved in Madison.”

WHAT: Council child care vehicle legislation
WHEN: During the Common Council meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2009
WHERE: City Hall (Council Chamber)

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