SUBJECT: Support for AB 387/SB 308 – Second Chance Bills

Dear {REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR NAME}:

As a constituent and attorney in your district, I am writing to ask for your support of the Second Chance Bills authored by Representative Garey Bies and Senator Jerry Petrowski.

Over the years, we have learned that it makes more sense, fiscally and otherwise, to be “smart on crime” rather than “tough on crime.” Assembly Bill 387/Senate Bill 308, which would return first-time, nonviolent 17-year-old offenders to juvenile court jurisdiction is smart legislation that boasts overwhelming bipartisan support from your colleagues, as well as former Governors Tommy Thompson and Jim Doyle.

As you know, the bills passed unanimously out of both the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs, and can now be scheduled for a vote on the floor of the Legislature. I ask that you partner with me and the State Bar of Wisconsin to see that this legislation becomes law. As a member of leadership, please help to schedule this bill for a vote in your chamber during the next available floor period.

When it comes time to cast your vote, I ask that you lend your support to this very important, practical legislation. Only 2 percent of 17-year-olds commit a violent offense, which means that 98 percent of 17-year-olds are committing a nonviolent offense. With new research from the MacIver Institute, the Texas Public Policy Foundation and the Models for Change Initiative making the case that youth with adult criminal records have serious barriers to success, I believe it’s time for Wisconsin to look forward and truly give nonviolent 17-year-olds a second chance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

{CONSTITUENT NAME}

{ADDRESS}

{CITY, STATE, ZIP}