

STATE REPRESENTATIVE . 69TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

June 20, 2019 For Immediate Release

Bill to protect Adopt-A-Hwy Volunteers Passes Wisconsin State Assembly

Assembly Bill 151 Looks to Encourage Traffic Safety

Madison, WI: Today the Wisconsin State Assembly voted in favor of Assembly Bill 151. Assembly Bill 151 would increase penalties for certain traffic violations where highway maintenance workers are present including volunteers working in Adopt-A-Highway projects.

"When Senator Miller introduced this bill without an Assembly lead, I immediately reached out to his office and asked to take the lead," said Rep. Bob Kulp (R-Stratford). "Last fall there was a horrific tragedy in our region of the state. Girl Scout Troop 3055 from the Eau Claire area was taking part in Wisconsin's Adopt-a-Highway program picking up trash along the side of the road. Their community service was cut short when a driver hit the group killing three girls and one adult. At the Assembly Transportation Committee public hearing, we heard the gut wrenching testimony of one of the fathers of one of the girls. He and his wife were actually the ones who picked out this section of road for their cleanup efforts, as he thought this would be a safe section of road."

"This bill won't fix everything, but it will help encourage drivers to look out for volunteers working on the sides of the roads. Volunteers who clean our state and county highways as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program deserve to be protected as they perform this service to our communities. To help improve the safety of these Adopt-a-Highway volunteers, this legislation increases the penalties for motorists who fail to follow traffic laws through the designated cleanup area."

This bill has enjoyed universal bi-partisan support. It passed the Transportation Committee 13 - 0. It passed the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously.

###