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# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. Kitchens supports law enforcement reforms**

MADISON, Wis. – Rep. Joel Kitchens, R-Sturgeon Bay, was pleased to join his Assembly colleagues this week in passing a package of legislation that reforms law enforcement policies and addresses racial disparities in Wisconsin.

The seven bills approved by the state Assembly relate to no-knock search warrants, school resource officers, requiring prospective law enforcement officers to complete a psychological exam prior to employment, crisis training, body cameras, drug testing of law enforcement personnel and crisis program enhancement grants.

All of these bills were drafted based on recommendations from the Law Enforcement Policies and Standards Subcommittee of the Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities, which held eight public hearings in the past year. The members of that panel consist of lawmakers, activists and law enforcement officials.

In response to the passage of the legislative package, Rep. Kitchens released the following statement:

“What impresses me most about this subcommittee is that they were able to work together to reach a consensus on many proposals that should strengthen relationships and accountability between communities of color and the police.

“Many members of the subcommittee have diverse backgrounds, and I believe those differences were vital in drafting such a comprehensive package. You really can’t understand what someone else is going through until you carefully listen to them and walk in their shoes. It is tremendously reassuring that the members were able to empathize with each other and collaborate for the common good of all Wisconsinites.

“In the end, both the activists and law enforcement community wanted greater transparency. The vast majority of law enforcement officials are committed public servants doing a very difficult and dangerous job to the best of their abilities. They know that transparency will only reinforce this.”

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