



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Jennifer Shilling**

95<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Shilling Votes to Add Positions at State Crime Lab and Increase Funding for Low-Income Child Care**

MADISON – Representative Jennifer Shilling (D – La Crosse) voted in favor of AB 72 Tuesday evening, which will increase funding for two important state programs, the State Crime Lab and the Wisconsin Shares program. This funding will help bring justice to thousands of crime victims and their families; and will provide low-income working parents with much-needed child care.

The increased funding for the Crime Lab is expected to move along the nearly 1,833 cases statewide that are currently waiting for DNA analysis – La Crosse County accounts for 17 of those cases. AB 72 will provide an additional \$96,000 and create 31 new positions at the State Crime Lab.

“It is so important that we are able to provide closure to crime victims and their families. I realize we are not going to eliminate the Crime Lab backlog overnight, but this is a huge step forward. What the Crime Lab needed was more people and more funding, and now we have provided that support.”

Under AB 72, the State Crime Lab will be provided enough funding to hire the additional staff it needs to begin immediately processing pending cases. Fifteen analyst positions will be authorized once the bill becomes law. The remaining 16 will be funded in July of this year, pending state budget approval. The new positions will also help prevent future case backlogs.

Representative Shilling also voted to provide an additional \$30 million for the Wisconsin Shares program. This program provides child care funding for low-income workers, creating more employment opportunities by allowing working parents to return to their jobs and earn an income.

“Wisconsin Shares is a great program for low income families and small businesses. Today’s vote will help ensure that working parents have access to the child care they need.”

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