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SUPPORTING REESTABLISHMENT OF A STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

Wisconsin Senate Bill 595 (2019–2020 Session) granted immunity from prosecution for possession of a controlled substance to a person, referred to as an “aider,” who summons or provides emergency medical assistance to another person believed to be experiencing an overdose or other adverse reaction to a controlled substance.

This bill built upon 2017 Wisconsin Act 33, which established limited immunity for individuals seeking emergency help during overdose situations. After the law's expiration on August 1, 2020, there were proposed revisions to expand on these protections to ensure immunity applied when an aider obtained assistance as soon as practicable after recognizing an overdose or adverse reaction to a controlled substance.

Currently, Wisconsin lacks an active Good Samaritan Law that protects both individuals experiencing overdoses and those seeking help on their behalf. Reinstating these protections would encourage timely emergency responses, reduce overdose deaths, and promote public health and safety across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the reestablishment by the Wisconsin Legislature of a statewide comprehensive Good Samaritan Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges the Dane County Lobbyist to work with members of the Wisconsin Legislature to advance passage of a Good Samaritan Law and to add support for a statewide Good Samaritan Law to the county's legislative agenda when it is updated.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution shall be conveyed to the Dane County delegation of the Wisconsin Legislature.

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