



March 20, 2026

Governor Tony Evers  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers:

On behalf of our organizations, we urge you to enact SB 248, which will improve Wisconsin's OWI law by allowing people convicted of repeat OWI offenses and those who refuse a BAC test to install an ignition interlock device sooner and obtain a restricted driver's license. This best practice was established because roughly 75% of people continue to drive on a suspended license, according to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

Additionally, this bill provides for extended time on the device when OWI offenders violate the terms of the program. This extra period of time immediately before an OWI offender's unrestricted driving privilege is reinstated gives the individual the opportunity to prove they have changed their behavior and are driving safely. This nationally-recognized best practice results in significant reductions in OWI recidivism and alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 583 traffic fatalities in Wisconsin and drunk driving was a factor in 31% of these fatalities. Ignition interlocks are one of the most effective countermeasures to stop impaired driving. [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism [by up to 70%](#) among all offenders while they are installed.

From 2006 to 2024, in Wisconsin, ignition interlocks prevented OWI offenders from attempting to drink and drive nearly 449,000 times. SB 248 protects people on the roadways while allowing OWI offenders to safely drive for family and work obligations.

We urge you to enact SB 248. It will save lives.

Sincerely,

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