

# Mark D. Gundrum

State Representative ✍ 84<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

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*For More Information, Contact:*

**Representative Mark D. Gundrum**

**(608) 267-5158 - Capitol**

**(414) 313-3962 - Car**

**(414) 425-2556 - District Office**

**[Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us) - Email**

## ***IDENTITY THEFT BILL APPROVED BY ASSEMBLY*** ***Unanimous Support for Measure Tighten Laws***

**MADISON...** Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously approved State Representative Mark Gundrum's (R-New Berlin) proposal to update and strengthen Wisconsin's laws on Identity Theft by a vote of 95-0. Assembly Bill 288 is the result of months of work by the Judiciary Committee's Special Task Force on Identity Theft.

**"Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the state,"** said Gundrum. **"One of the main reasons is because criminals know our laws in this area are so woefully inadequate. If this bill becomes law, prosecutors will be able to aggressively pursue these criminals, and deliver justice to victims."**

The bill carries the endorsement of the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association (WDAA). A recent statement issued by the group in support of the bill said **"The consequences [ of identity theft ] to victims can be be devastating, sometimes resulting in financial bankruptcy, false arrest, and everlasting damage to reputations. The Executive Board of the Wisconsin District Attorney's Association has unanimously endorsed AB 288...Prosecutors need this legislation to protect the citizens of Wisconsin."**

**"Today's bi-partisan vote brings law enforcement officials a step closer to having the tools they need to bring down these high tech con artists,"** said Gundrum.

Rep. Marlin Schneider (D-Wisconsin Rapids), a staunch defender of personal privacy, praised the legislation and the Task Force's efforts on the floor of the Assembly. **"This is the way the legislature should work – in a bi-partisan way to help the citizens of this state. This is an excellent bill that goes a long way toward protecting the privacy, financial security and reputations of Wisconsin citizens. All of the citizens of this state should appreciate Representative Gundrum's leadership on this issue."**

The bill has now been sent to the Senate for consideration.