

EXCLUSIVE: Legal Teen Prostitution, Ban On Under 21 Cigarette Buying Both DOA In State Assembly
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A bill passed by the State Senate on a unanimous voice vote to essentially legalize teenage prostitution in Wisconsin is already dead in the State Assembly. Kit Beyer, chief of staff to Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, tells me the bill to bar criminal charges for prostitution for people under age 18 will not be considered by the Assembly.

The bill passed the Senate this week on a voice vote and was supported by both Republicans and Democrats. Supporters say they consider teenage prostitutes to be victims of the pimps who turn them out and the johns that hire them, and not criminals. I have objected to the bill, arguing that if criminal penalties are eliminated, human traffickers and other pimps will have an incentive to use even more underage hookers. In other words, the bill would actually lead to even more teenage prostitution than we have now. Lenient treatment of juveniles is the biggest reason why most drug houses and street drug sales are handled by minors and why most auto thefts in Milwaukee are likewise committed by minors.

In addition, Beyer says the Assembly will not act on a bill proposed this week that would bar the sale and use of cigarettes and vaping materials by people under age 21. Current law is at age 18.

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