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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AG Schimel Continues 72-County Tour to Discuss Public Safety
in Adams and Wood Counties**

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel continued his 72-county statewide tour to meet with local law enforcement and elected officials this week with stops in Adams and Wood Counties on Monday, October 30.

“Solutions to some of our biggest public safety challenges often come from leadership on the local level,” said Attorney General Schimel. “I appreciate having had the opportunity to hear from law enforcement and social services who are on the frontlines and look forward to continuing the successful collaboration between DOJ and local government on issues like drug treatment courts.”

“The roundtable was an excellent opportunity for state and local officials to get together and share common challenges that we are facing in the criminal justice system and in the area of health and human services,” said Adams County Sheriff Sam Wollin. “We also discussed some of the tools and resources the state is pursuing as well as what we are doing locally to try to address the concerns. The meeting also really helped bring awareness to the local officials who may not realize that we are seeing a lot of the same concerns larger communities are seeing as it relates to opioids and other drugs.”

Attorney General Schimel and the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) leadership team is meeting with law enforcement and local officials in every county to discuss public safety concerns specific to each county. The challenges faced by law enforcement leaders and the criminal justice system differ from county to county, even in neighboring communities, making it critical for DOJ to be responsive to public safety needs at the local level. DOJ is local communities’ partner in safety, and these

meetings aim to discover what resources and efforts DOJ can provide to make Wisconsin safer and stronger.

DOJ financially supports a number of programs to help public safety officials keep the county safe. Next year, Wood County will receive \$140,000 to fund the county's adult drug court, providing an alternative to incarceration for those struggling with addiction. Also next year, Adams County will be provided more than \$75,000 to implement a treatment court that would support those struggling with alcohol and other substance abuse. The Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force, which includes Wood and Adams counties' law enforcement, was also provided more than \$240,000 to fight heroin and methamphetamine.

DOJ also financially supports to Wood and Adams counties' crime victim service organizations, ensuring that crime victims are given guidance and counseling as they participate in the criminal justice system. Since 2015, DOJ has provided Hope House of South Central Wisconsin more than \$680,000. Hope House is located in Sauk County and provides services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Adams, Columbia, Juneau, Marquette, and Sauk counties. Since 2015, DOJ has provided nearly \$1.4 million to support victim services in Wood County, including funding to the Marshfield Clinic - Child Advocacy Center, Person Development Center, and the Wisconsin Rapids Family Center.

In attendance at the Adams County roundtable meeting were: Senator Pat Testin, Representatives Joan Ballweg and Scott Krug, Adams County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Glen Wood, Adams County Sheriff Sam Wollin, and other local elected officials and law enforcement.

In attendance at the Wood County roundtable meeting were: Senator Patrick Testin, Representatives Scott Krug and Nancy VanderMeer, and other local elected officials and law enforcement.

To see what other counties the Attorney General has visited, and where he will going next, go to: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ag-roundtable-map>