



STATE OF WISCONSIN TASK FORCE ON OPIOID ABUSE

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Attorney General Brad Schimel: "Our multidisciplinary approach to attacking this crisis has led to some incredible successes. The recommendations announced today are balanced, well-researched, and combat the epidemic through all necessary channels: prevention, treatment and enforcement."

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson: "[T]he measures directed at health-care for previously incarcerated individuals, medically-assisted treatment pilot program for individuals prior to leaving the custody of local jails, and evidence-based programming will each ultimately playing a role in reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety."

Wisconsin Medical Society President Noel Deep, MD: "Today's recommendations from the co-chairs of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse represent another important step in fighting the opioid epidemic. This positive progress also shows how the collaboration among physicians, policymakers and law enforcement creates a productive environment for frank discussion and agreement on how best to attack the myriad issues we are facing."

Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell: "We commend Governor Walker, Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch and Representative Nygren for their unwavering commitment to finding broad based and innovative solutions to the opioid epidemic currently facing our state. "We look forward to working with them and the legislature to put in place these initiatives."

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos: "Thank you for your continued leadership in this important fight against addiction."

State Senator Leah Vukmir: "As a member of Governor Walker's Task Force on Opioid Abuse, I am pleased to join my colleagues as we unveil legislation that builds on the Legislature's efforts to combat opioid abuse in Wisconsin. It is critical that our communities have the tools necessary to combat the rising problems that stem from heroin abuse."

State Representative Pat Snyder: "Through my work leading the bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care, it is evident that the drug addiction epidemic is the driving increase in the number of children being removed from their homes and placed into the foster care system. The Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court has been recognized nationally for its success in handling these types of cases. These additional dollars will help more counties in need implement this service within their communities."

State Representative Treig Pronschinske: "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment in our fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic. My bill brings more professionals to the front lines. Drawing on feedback from hundreds of experts, and ideas brought forward by Democrats and Republicans alike, what we introduced today will help more people access the healthcare they need."

In response to, *Task Force Co-Chairs Lt. Governor Kleefisch and Rep. Nygren* commented, "We are pleased by the widespread support these recommendations are drawing from colleagues and stakeholders. Stemming the tide of this epidemic means working together, and we're grateful to all our partners who are joining us today to tackle this crisis head-on."