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Rep. Duchow Voters to Protect Elders

Madison, WI – State Representative Cindi Duchow (R-Delafield) voted in support of three bills that would help prevent elder abuse and combat financial exploitation of seniors here in Wisconsin.

“As the senior population in Wisconsin continues to increase, unfortunately so are instances of reported elder abuse,” said Rep. Duchow. “The three bills passed today are common sense reforms that will bolster protections for one of our state’s most vulnerable populations.”

In an effort to deter bad actors from abuse and exploitation, Assembly Bill 44 increases criminal penalties for crimes committed against elder populations by aligning them with those committed against other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the bill removes a barrier that inhibits some elders from seeking justice by providing elders seeking a restraining order the option to appear in court virtually.

Assembly Bills 45 and 46 combat the growing incidence of financial exploitation of seniors by expanding avenues to report suspected elder abuse, and granting financial institutions the ability to delay transactions when they suspect financial exploitation of an elder. Financial abuse of elders will be easier to combat and prevent early on with these extra checkpoints in place.

“One in nine elders report some form of abuse. The three bills I voted for today are essential to supporting some of our most vulnerable as they will heighten security and increase peace of mind for both our elderly and their families.”

The bipartisan elder abuse bills now head to the Senate for approval.

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Representative Duchow represents the 99th Assembly District which includes the communities of Chenequa, Delafield, Dousman, Hartland, Merton, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake, Ottawa, and Wales; and portions of Genesee, North Prairie, Oconomowoc, and Summit.