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For Immediate Release
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**Darling Delivers Weekly Radio Address:
Children's Mental Health**

Listen to the radio address here: <https://sen08-darling.cms.legis.wisconsin.gov/media/1194/71118-senator-darling-radio-address.mp3>

Transcript:

Hi. I'm State Senator Alberta Darling.

Our nation faces an opioid crisis. Republicans in Wisconsin are leading the way in the fight against heroin and opioid addiction.

We've passed 30 bills to combat the crisis. And it's working.

Opioid prescriptions are down 10 percent and more people are seeking and receiving treatment.

But addiction doesn't just effect the addict, it takes a toll on their family members. Often, children of addicts find themselves in foster care, struggling with their own issues.

Up to 80 percent of children in foster care have significant mental health issues, compared to about 20 percent of the general population. Republicans are working hard to make sure these children don't fall through the cracks.

We updated our laws to ensure kids considering suicide aren't denied emergency treatment because their parents can't be found.

Because of our actions foster parents now have access to mental health information that doctors believe is necessary for the children in their care.

In addition, we invested more than \$7 million for mental health services for kids in our schools.

Real progress is being made to help those affected by addiction. We will continue to make sure everyone affected by the opioid crisis gets the help they need to live healthy, happy, and successful lives.

On Wisconsin!

Senator Darling represents portions of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties.

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