



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Nygren Attends Mental Health America Legislative Panel

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), author of 30 bipartisan bills aimed at combating Wisconsin's opioid epidemic released the following statement:

“Today I had the honor to speak at the Mental Health America Regional Policy Council Meeting. I was honored to be recognized as the 2017 Legislative Champion for being a strong advocate for expanding mental healthcare services.”

The Regional Policy Council (RPC) is a signature program of Mental Health America (MHA) –the only national mental health advocacy organization to align its policy meetings with the convening of major state executive and legislative membership groups.

“Mental health continues to be a growing issue in every corner of our nation and impacts all walks of life. In Wisconsin, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death. I am proud of the investments we have made over the last few years to increase access to crucial mental health services.

“One of the best things we can do as a state is to reform how treatment is delivered to our most vulnerable populations. That’s why Governor Walker’s Task Force on Opioid Abuse recommended implementing a Hub-and-Spoke treatment delivery system. I was disappointed that Governor Evers vetoed the funding for this program in the state budget, but I am hopeful the Department of Health Services will work diligently with experts on this issue to implement the Task Force’s recommendations.”

Over seven years, Wisconsin Republicans have made strategic investments and reforms in mental health aimed at getting help and support to those who need it. This work includes over \$50 million in state support and over 15 individual pieces of legislation.

“Most recently, Speaker Robin Vos created the bipartisan Speaker’s Task Force on Suicide Prevention. The Task Force has been travelling the state hearing from survivors, experts, advocates, and families who have been impacted. I look forward to seeing what recommendations this bipartisan task force presents to the legislature.”

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