



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
 P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

PRESS RELEASE

August 20th, 2019

Sen. Testin and Rep. Macco Introduce Legislation to Protect the Elderly from Abuse

Four Bills Were a Product of Former Attorney General’s Task Force

Madison, WI – Since 2001, there’s been a 160% increase in reported elder abuse in Wisconsin. Today, legislators proposed legislation to help combat that trend and protect seniors from financial, emotional, and physical abuse. Sen. Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Rep. John Macco (Ledgeview) introduced four bills on Tuesday, each of which is a product of former Attorney General Schimel’s Task Force on Elder Abuse.

The legislation implements a variety of changes to strengthen protections for the elderly, including increased penalties for abusers, enhanced options for financial security, and accommodations for the elderly in trial settings.

“This legislation is the result of extensive study and cooperation between legislators, state agencies, law enforcement, victim advocates, citizen advocacy organizations, and many others who want to ensure that Wisconsin’s elderly population is protected,” said Sen. Testin, who served on the task force. “By working together, I believe we’ve found a way to help seniors in our state lead better, more secure lives.”

Rep. Macco, who was a member of the task force’s financial exploitation work group, agreed that this legislation would have a positive impact.

“Introducing these bills is personal for me,” said Rep. Macco. “My mother-in-law, Doris, experienced financial malfeasance at the hands of a relative a number of years ago. With more and more baby boomers retiring each day, it is critical for us to do what we can to prevent this from happening to other seniors. With two decades of service in the financial services industry, I know how important it is to protect the ‘nest eggs’ of our state’s senior citizens. That’s why I am pleased to be the lead Assembly sponsor of these package of bills.”

Heather A. Bruemmer, the Executive Director and State Ombudsman from the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, believes that these bills are being introduced at the right time. “Many thanks to Senator Testin and Representative Macco for taking the leadership for these bills,” said Bruemmer. “We have received an increased amount of complaints regarding elder abuse in our Ombudsman Program, so we are elated to see this important legislation move forward to protect our most vulnerable individuals and strengthen our laws in this state.”

The four bills will circulate for co-sponsorship until Friday, August 30th.

###

Contact:



Sen. Testin
(608) 266-3123



Rep. Macco
(608) 266-0485