



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Joel Kitchens
(608) 266-5350

Rep. Kitchens Votes to Pass HOPE Agenda

Madison -- Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) voted for a package of bills that will help people suffering from opioid addiction, and provide more tools to fight Wisconsin's opioid and heroin epidemic.

The Wisconsin State Assembly passed four bills that will build on the HOPE Agenda (Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education) and continue legislative efforts to combat addictions through prevention and treatment efforts. From now on, Wisconsin licensed physicians are required to review the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) when prescribing a monitored controlled substance, and pharmacies will report any prescription painkillers filled within 24 hours. Statistics show that 90 percent of overdose cases are caused by re-prescribed opiates.

"These changes will help us address the root of opioid abuse in our state," said Rep. Kitchens. "Stopping opioid abuse and addiction before they begin will help put Wisconsin back on track and allow us to treat this epidemic."

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