



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative Joel Kitchens

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(608) 266-5350

Representative Kitchens Joins Foster Care Task Force

Madison- State Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) released the following statement following today's press conference announcing the Assembly Task Force on Foster Care:

“Earlier today, Speaker Vos (R- Rochester) announced the formation of an Assembly Task Force on Foster Care. I am honored to have been asked to be a part of this bipartisan group of legislators that will work to address the shortages and deficiencies in our current foster care program. While attracting and retaining foster care parents is imperative, working to figure out why children go into the foster care system and supporting them when they age out it is equally as important.

“As the Chairman of the Children and Families Committee and a long-time school board president, I truly believe there is no better investment a state can make than in its children. Foster children are an especially vulnerable subset as they experience struggles many children do not.

“This spring, I attended the Fostering Futures event hosted by Congressman Gallagher in our area. The seminar really opened my eyes to the many difficulties that foster parents face and the hardships that many foster children have to overcome.

The task force will spend the next several months holding public hearings around the state to hear directly from foster families and interested parties on what their greatest concerns are. With input from the public and experts, the task force will work to craft a legislative package that will be introduced in the fall.

“I look forward to working with the Task Force Co-Chairman, Representative Snyder (R-Schofield), and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to provide assistance and relief to foster families here in Wisconsin.”

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