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# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. Kitchens grateful for Door County TAD funding**

MADISON, Wis. - Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) is extremely grateful that Door County will be receiving funds for treatment court and diversion (TAD) programs through the 2019-2021 state budget.

TAD programs allow district attorneys and judges to offer offenders a different option other than confinement in jail or prison, thereby saving taxpayer dollars. These programs include voluntary substance abuse treatment and case management, as well as other types of risk reduction services.

“The treatment courts and diversion programs are not about being soft on crime,” Rep Kitchens said. “Instead, they provide an opportunity for non-violent offenders to integrate back into society, rather than repeating the cycle and going back to prison.”

Door County was awarded \$140,000 to create an adult drug court. Drug courts hear selected cases that involve substance-dependent offenders. Depending on which phase the participants are in, they must routinely meet with a judge throughout the duration of their case. Every step and measure of the program is to ensure participants are taking the correct road to recovery.

In recent years, TAD programs have been implemented throughout the state and now more counties are getting involved due to the new state budget. Diligent work is required to receive funding for these programs and those who work with the participants must be dedicated and believe that this initiative will lead to success.

“I want to recognize Judge David Weber, District Attorney Colleen Nordin and Sheriff Tammy Sternard for going above and beyond to ensure Door County receives this funding,” Rep. Kitchens added. “Their hard work and dedication to this program will help those who battle addiction in Door County by giving them the opportunity and support to recover and reach success. They will be working with the program’s participants every day, every week and every month. I am so thankful for their dedication to our community and this program.”

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