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Rep. Sanfelippo Applauds Passage of Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health Bills

Today after many months of work by the Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health the Assembly approved 13 bills. The bills will make dramatic and much needed improvements to the delivery of mental health care services in our state.

“As a member of the Speaker's Task Force, I am proud to have authored two of today's bills that address issues of concern we heard from mental health providers and consumers as we traveled around the state holding public hearings earlier this year”, said Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-West Allis).

AB458 increases access to mental health therapy for children suffering from severe emotional disturbances. It also helps ease shortages of psychiatric services in many areas around the state by expanding the use of tele-psychiatry.

AB459 authorizes grants aimed at expanding the use of Individualized Placement and Support programs (IPS) throughout the state. Employment is a key factor in recovery for people with mental illness. By getting people back to work through the IPS program, we can help decrease their reliance on state programs.

The action taken by the Assembly today comes as a direct result of the commitments made by Governor Walker and Speaker Vos who made long overdue improvements in Wisconsin's mental health care policies a priority for the legislature.

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