



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Transforming the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Milwaukee County

(Madison, WI) – The Senate has unanimously passed Senate Bill 565 (33-0), which will address a crisis situation with the delivery of mental health services in Milwaukee County. The plan, authored by State Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-West Allis) and State Senator Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa), creates a mental health board made up of medical professionals and other experts, who will set policies and make funding decisions.

"I'm pleased that both Republicans and Democrats have been able to put politics aside to address what can only be described as a crisis situation with the delivery of mental health services in Milwaukee County. After 30 years of studies being ignored, consumers and family members are one step closer to getting the help they so desperately need and deserve. I am confident the bill will now pass in the Assembly with the same overwhelming bipartisan support the other mental health bills received in both houses. Both Governor Walker and Speaker Vos have made improving mental health services in Wisconsin a priority for this session," said Sanfelippo.

"This plan will bring in the best and brightest experts in the field to evaluate mental health services and will ensure those services run smoothly and effectively going forward. The board will focus on accountability, which is crucial in dealing with problems that have arisen in the mental health services field in Milwaukee County. Numerous studies have shown the need for change as patients continue to be neglected. We have already waited too long to address these concerns," said Vukmir.

The Senate-passed bill is expected to go before the Assembly for a vote next week.

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