



# DAVE MURPHY

State Representative • 56th Assembly District

*State Capitol Office:*  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953  
(608) 266-7500  
(888) 534-0056 *toll-free in Wisconsin*

*56th Assembly District:*  
1777 Ivy Lane  
Greenville, WI 54942  
(920) 378-1424

**For immediate release**  
**November 13, 2013**  
**Dave Murphy: 920-378-1424**

## **Rep. Murphy Supports Mental Health Reform**

(Madison)...Rep. Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) applauded the passage of a package of mental health reform bills before the Assembly this week. The bills were drafted following the work of the Speaker's Task Force on Mental health, a bipartisan group of 11 legislators created in February 2013.

“Everyone has been touched by the mental illness of someone they care about, or has faced this issue themselves and I’m glad we are taking big steps to get Wisconsin current with modern needs,” said Murphy. “Increasing access to treatment and facilitating the medical coordination of treatment for people is critical to success in the mental health area.”

The Task Force held five public hearings statewide, and also listened to the input of healthcare providers and more than 70 experts. The legislation that passed this week included creating a child psychiatry consultation program, setting reporting standards for county-provided core mental health services, and grants for counties to establish mobile crisis units, intervention teams and peer-run respite centers. Helping doctors communicate with each other, without violating patient privacy, is a major feature of the legislation.

“Getting people to the source of their care is really important. Sometimes, a person might seek mental health treatment but there isn’t a provider near them,” Murphy stated. “The grant money we’ve allocated here will bring mental health professionals to underserved areas of Wisconsin.”

About one in four adult Americans suffer from mental health issues or diagnosable mental disorders in a given year, with a cost of at least \$105 billion in lost productivity. The bill package now moves to the Senate for action.

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30 second video clip: <http://media2.legis.wi.gov/multimedia/asm56/MurphyMentalHealth2.wmv>

14 second video clip: <http://media2.legis.wi.gov/multimedia/asm56/MurphyMentalHealth1.wmv>