



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## Rep. VanderMeer Votes to Promote Good Health

**Madison** – Today, State Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) voted to reform Wisconsin’s FoodShare (food stamp) program to promote better nutrition and health.

“The FoodShare program will continue to help those truly in need with basic food necessities, while at the same time reduce the abuse and misuse of this program.” said Rep. VanderMeer.

Today’s legislation, Assembly Bill 177, requires recipients to make healthier choices with their taxpayer-funded benefits. Two-thirds of FoodShare benefits will have to be spent on foods that are part of the federal supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC). In addition, recipients can purchase beef, pork, poultry, fish, potatoes and fresh produce, as well dairy and cranberry products.

“The intention of this reform is to provide the best nutritional value of those who rely on FoodShare to sustain their families with affordable, healthy meals.” said Rep. VanderMeer. “I am glad we’re working to make this necessary reform a reality.”

Currently, nearly \$74 billion is spent annually on the food stamp program nationally; including \$1.1 billion in Wisconsin alone. Nationally, 1 in 7 people and 1 in 5 children (2013) receive food stamps. The program’s cost has more than doubled in the last 4 years.

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*