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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Foster Forward Signed by Governor Walker

Governor Walker traveled to Wausau to sign legislative package that will improve foster care

WAUSAU... Today, the legislative package called Foster Forward was signed by Governor Walker. Foster Forward contains 11 bipartisan bills that were passed by the Senate and Assembly, which will make significant improvements to Wisconsin's foster care system. Governor Walker signed the bills in Wausau and La Crosse, where two of the Foster Care Task Force public hearings were held, and where each of the co-chairs of the Task Force reside. After the bill signing, co-chair Representative Patrick Snyder (Schofield) released the following statement:

“The most resounding lesson the Task Force learned is that the challenges in our foster care system know no boundaries. They’re not drawn across racial lines, economic lines, geographic lines, or party lines. That is why I am so proud of the work from the 13 bipartisan Task Force members to create a package of bills that lift up our foster care system. I commend and thank Governor Walker for his swift action in signing the package of bills into law.”

The package of bills was developed after the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care, created in July 2017 by Speaker Robin Vos and chaired by Representatives Pat Snyder and Steve Doyle, traveled around Wisconsin, holding public hearings in six locations. The Task Force heard from state agencies, foster parents, foster children, biological parents, social workers, and other advocates on challenges that exist within the current system. As a result, the legislation in the Foster Forward Package provides resources for organizations that administer services to foster families, biological parents, and foster children; makes procedural improvements to Termination of Parental Rights proceedings and foster home licensing; and improves access to medical and dental care for foster children.

“While the work of the Foster Care Task Force is officially completed, I know that challenges within the system still exist,” Rep. Snyder added. “I am committed to continuing the work that we started and helping further improve the lives of those impacted by our child welfare system.”

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