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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Snyder Testifies on Homelessness Bill Package

Eight bills supporting services for homeless individuals and families receive public hearing

Madison-Today, Assembly Bill (AB) 123, authored by Representative Pat Snyder (R-Schofield), received a public hearing in the Committee on Housing and Real Estate. The legislation is part of an eight bill package, which provides support for homeless individuals and families. After testifying on the bill he authored, Rep. Snyder made the following comment:

“Assembly Bill 123 is a great step in the right direction; it increases funding for housing and related services for homeless individuals and families, under the housing grant program. The flexibility that was created in this program last session allows the new dollars to be used on more effective methods of combatting homelessness, which is critical because research shows that long-term housing solutions are more effective at combatting homelessness than emergency and short-term shelter placements.”

Last session, Assembly Bill 235, which eventually became part of 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, made Wisconsin’s transitional housing program more flexible and renamed it the housing grant program. Assembly Bill 123 increases funding for the program by \$900,000 annually—a 300% increase.

Rep. Snyder also spoke about the other legislation in the homelessness package, which included eight bills being heard in three committees. The other legislation in the package increases funding for homelessness prevention, shelters, case management, and other direct services. The package also aims to increase affordable housing and services for homeless youth.

“AB 123 is critical to combatting homelessness,” Rep. Snyder added, “but it is not a silver bullet. We must combine this funding for the housing grant program with other policies and resources, such as the other legislation in this bill package.”

All eight bills came from the Interagency Council on Homelessness’ Statewide Action Plan called A Hand and A Home. The legislation will still need to be voted on by committee members before going to Senate Committees.

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