



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rep. John Nygren

January 20, 2015

(888) 534-0089

Rep. Nygren's Statement on WI Senator's Delayed Response

Madison – State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement regarding Sen. Tammy Baldwin's months of knowledge concerning the Tomah VA's opiate prescribing practices:

"While I am extremely troubled by the allegations of overmedication at the Tomah VA hospital, I am even more troubled by Sen. Baldwin's lack of action. A recent news article states that Baldwin learned of the problems at the VA months ago, but failed to investigate the problems further.

"As an elected official, it was the senator's duty to pursue this issue as soon as it came to her attention. She failed to fulfill this duty, and has put veterans' lives at stake in the process.

"This is not the treatment that our state's veterans deserve. I support a full investigation of the Tomah VA, as allegations of overmedication are unacceptable.

"There is currently an opiate epidemic in Wisconsin. To help combat this epidemic, I authored a package of bills last session called the HOPE (Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education) Agenda. Today, these laws are helping to increase accessibility to treatment and anti-overdose drugs. Overprescribing practices like those at the VA in Tomah will only hold these positive efforts back, and action needs to be taken immediately."

This session, Rep. Nygren will continue to build upon the seven bills that make up his HOPE Agenda to further fight Wisconsin's heroin epidemic.

###