

NEWS RELEASE

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February 17, 2006

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AGREEMENT TO FUND NURSING HOMES GAINS SUPPORT FROM AREA LEGISLATORS

Madison... In another example of the Republican Legislature's commitment to support the thousands of vulnerable seniors living in nursing homes across Wisconsin, the Joint Finance Committee approved action to increase nursing home rates.

"In the legislature we have a duty to assist our most vulnerable citizens," said Rep. Garey Bies (R-Sister Bay). "I have previously and continue to support providing relief in the form of increasing nursing home rates and am very pleased with the Finance Committee's action on the issue."

The Joint Committee on Finance approved a proposal that would provide nursing homes with \$11.4 million directed at rate increases. This funding increase provides nursing homes with a supplemental payment this fiscal year while increasing rates by 2.8% beginning in July.

"I find it frustrating to have to revisit this issue that should have been taken care of by now, but the Governor's vetoes of our earlier efforts have brought us back once again," said Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Green Bay). "I am pleased that the Governor has come to realize the importance of supporting our seniors and supports this critical piece of legislation."

"The legislative session is entering the home stretch and this legislation, which will increase total funding for nursing homes by \$26.8 million, will be a great achievement for the Republicans in the Legislature," said Rep. Judy Krawczyk (R-Green Bay). "I am proud to support this legislation to help our seniors."

Van Roy said that in addition to fulfilling the state's promise to Wisconsin's nursing homes, the Committee approved a funding transfer to fill a \$76.7 million deficit in the Medical Assistance Trust Account. Krawczyk added that this deficit was initially caused by the Governor's veto pen when he eliminated over \$60 million in funding for Medical Assistance.

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