



# John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Eight HOPE Agenda Bills Signed into Law** *Wisconsin continues fighting devastating opioid epidemic*

**Madison** – Thursday, Governor Walker signed eight of this session’s Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda bills into law at locations across Wisconsin, making stops in Marinette, Wausau, Eau Claire, and Oconomowoc. Representative John Nygren (R- Marinette) released the following statement regarding the bill signings:

“I am proud that we are continuing to work towards addressing our state’s prescription opioid epidemic. This devastating problem knows no boundaries; everyone is affected by addiction in some way, regardless of their background. The legislation signed into law today builds upon the foundation we’ve laid with the HOPE Agenda over the last three years.”

Following today’s bill signings, the HOPE Agenda consists of 16 laws total. Seven of these laws are from the 2013-14 legislative session and nine are from this session. One remaining HOPE bill from this session will be signed into law at a later date (Assembly Bill 657).

“Because of the great strides we’ve made with the HOPE Agenda, Wisconsin is well ahead of the curve in addressing our country’s prescription opioid and heroin problem. While there is still more work to be done, our leadership will surely help guide other states as they battle this same epidemic.”

The following are short summaries of each of the eight bills signed into law today:

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 364:** Changes the requirement for those who dispense certain prescription drugs to submit information to the PDMP from 7 days to 24 hours. It will also require a practitioner to review a patient’s record when initially prescribing a monitored prescription drug (for example, a Schedule II drug).

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 365:** States that when law enforcement encounters an inappropriate use or an infraction of the law concerning scheduled drugs, they upload that information into the PDMP and have the PDMP notify the physician. There are exceptions for on-going investigations.



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**2015-16 Assembly Bill 366:** Gives the Department of Health Services (DHS) oversight over the operation of pain management clinics across the state. The department's oversight would not be regulatory, but would be a way of providing safeguards so "pill mills" don't pop up in our state.

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 367:** Requires methadone clinics to gather data such as staffing ratios, the number of patients receiving behavioral health services with the medication, and average mileage an individual is traveling to come to a clinic. This information will then be reported to DHS on an annual basis to give public health and treatment professionals a chance to analyze outcome data.

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 658:** Criminalizes the use, possession, manufacture, distribution, and advertisement of any substance or device that is intended to defraud, circumvent, interfere with, or provide a substitute for a bodily fluid in conjunction with a lawfully administered drug test. Given that many employers subject their employees to lawfully administered drug tests, this bill will help ensure that people are not defrauding or interfering with the test results.

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 659:** State regulations regarding opioid treatment programs are much more stringent than federal regulations. In order to afford more people accessibility to the treatment they need, this bill streamlines Wisconsin's state regulations to align with federal regulations. With these changes, more Wisconsinites will be able to have access to opioid treatment.

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 660:** Allows a number of medical-affiliated boards under the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to issue guidelines regarding best practices in prescribing controlled substances. These best practices will help reduce instances of overprescribing and, in turn, lessen prescription opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction.

**2015-16 Assembly Bill 766:** Creates reporting requirements for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The data collected will be reviewed and evaluated by the Controlled Substances Board (CSB) to determine the effectiveness of the PDMP and to compare actual outcomes with projected outcomes.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped formulate these important pieces of legislation. I appreciate the time taken by Governor Walker to travel the state and sign this legislative package into law. Moving forward, I eagerly anticipate continuing conversations with the medical community, law enforcement, my fellow legislators, the governor, the attorney general, and advocates statewide to further these significant efforts."

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