

41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. Joan Ballweg March 6, 2019 (888) 534-0041

## **Rep. Ballweg Named Chair of Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention**

**Madison...**Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) appointed Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) as the Chair of the Speaker's bipartisan Task Force on Suicide Prevention on March 6, 2019.

The Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention will study and create policy initiatives to reduce and reverse the trend of increasing deaths from suicide. Members of the task force will travel the state and hold public hearings to gather feedback from survivors, advocates, experts, families and communities who have been impacted.

"Thank you, Speaker Vos, for appointing me as Chair of this task force. Over the past year my office has been meeting with agencies and advocates to research this topic in depth. I am honored to have been chosen to lead this effort and work with my colleagues to create much needed policy support to fight this upward trend," said Ballweg.

The Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention will aim to evaluate our state's current suicide prevention efforts, identify new opportunities to target at-risk communities, increase awareness for evidence-based programs and protocols and investigate new treatment and prevention options.

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