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FoodShare Bill is Common Sense Reform

WIC Standards are federally approved

Madison, WI – Senator Stroebel issued the following statement following his testimony on AB177 reforming FoodShare.

My Democrat colleagues – some of whom voted last session on a similar bill – argue using the federally approved WIC standards for the FoodShare program is not a "common sense" idea.

To me, Democrats frequently put their faith in the federal government including the President's healthcare legislation. Now they argue the federal government's decisions relating to those foods included on the WIC list is too narrow in scope.

This bill is virtually the same as a substitute amendment passed by the entire Assembly, including over one-third of the Democrat caucus voting in favor of it. The list of Democrats who voted in favor of the bill last session include Representative Jorgensen. With his vote, he approved the use of the WIC list he now opposes. Despite his previous support, he now questions the use of the WIC list.

The bill promotes healthy eating for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The best way to promote heathier lifestyles and bolster nutrition is to apply the federal WIC standards to Wisconsin's FoodShare program.

The average FoodShare issuance is \$215 per month and can be as high as \$649 for a family of four, accounting for \$1.2 billion in GPR expenditures. Half of Wisconsin's recipients are under twenty-four.

Those who believe nutritious eating promotes a healthy lifestyle should be supportive of this legislation. When it comes to government assistance intended for "supplemental nutrition," our intent is to simply define those items for which the program was intended to cover.

Senator Duey Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes parts of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties. He lives in Cedarburg with his wife Laura and eight children.

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