



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Monroe County Well Represented at Suicide Prevention Task Force Hearing in La Crosse**

**Madison** – Yesterday, the bipartisan Task Force on Suicide Prevention, co-chaired by Representative Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Representative Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska), held a public hearing in La Crosse. The fifteen member task force started their day with a tour of Gundersen Health Systems Behavioral Health Inpatient Unit in the morning and held the public hearing at the La Crosse County Administrative Building in the afternoon.

Testimony was given from the La Crosse County Human Services Department, Gundersen Health System, the La Crosse County Medical Examiner, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. In addition, Kayleigh Day, a Community Health Educator from the Monroe County Health Department and a Monroe County Mental Health Coalition member, offered testimony to the committee and took questions from committee members.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), a member of the task force, released the following statement:

“I’m glad we were able to have a task force hearing in La Crosse and that Kayleigh was able to appear before the committee. I think she did an outstanding job of bringing into the discussion the things her and the coalition deal with throughout Monroe County and also sharing some of the great work that the Monroe County Mental Health Coalition takes part in. This is not an easy topic to talk about but it’s something that has a reach throughout too many families in our state. We should be proud that we have people like Kayleigh and other coalition members in our community that are willing to take on this important work.

“I look forward to the committee continuing it’s work both in Madison and at other public hearings throughout the state and remain committed to highlighting the unique circumstances many families face that live in more sparsely populated or rural parts of the state as it pertains to mental health issues.”

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*