

From: Rep.VanderMeer
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:05 PM
To: *Legislative Everyone
Subject: Co-sponsorship of LRB-3872/1, relating to: grants for suicide prevention programming and making an appropriation.
Attachments: LRB 3872-1.pdf



CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

TO: Legislative Colleagues

FROM: Representative Nancy VanderMeer
Representative Beth Meyers

RE: **Co-sponsorship of LRB-3872/1, relating to:** grants for suicide prevention programming and making an appropriation.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM

This legislation is part of a broader package of bills recommended by the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. This bipartisan task force was created in March of 2019 and held six public hearings across the state with the charge of evaluating the current resources for suicide prevention and identifying opportunities to target and assist at-risk individuals.

This legislation seeks to grow the number of local mental health organizations and coalitions throughout Wisconsin. Local mental health organizations provide help and resources to those experiencing mental health issues and suicidal thoughts in our communities. They are staffed by mental health professionals and volunteers to direct people to services that are available to them, provide education to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health, and teach community stakeholders such as police, teachers and family members how to assist when a person is in crisis. Often, mental health organizations hold workshops, community meetings or lessons in schools to raise awareness about mental health and what help is available. In addition, mental health coalitions offer peer support to people suffering from a mental health issue, offering an outlet for someone to talk with a trained and compassionate listener.

The idea for this bill came in part from testimony the Task Force received from the Monroe County Mental Health Coalition at the La Crosse hearing in May. This community coalition provides education focused on reducing stigma and promoting awareness about suicide's warning signs throughout the community. The coalition is a partnership with local governmental, educational, health and law enforcement entities so they can better help residents in crisis.

Local mental health organizations have a great potential to be a frontline resource for individuals struggling with suicidal thoughts throughout our communities. With the help of these grants, more localities will be able to start a mental health organization or strengthen an existing one, helping to eliminate stigma and save lives.

Under this legislation, the Department of Health Services will be required to award grants to local mental health organizations or coalitions for suicide prevention programming. An organization receiving a grant will be required to match the grant at 20%, and grants will be limited to \$10,000 per organization in a fiscal year.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this e-mail or contact Representative VanderMeer's office at (608) 266-8366 by **Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM.**

If you or someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 or text "HOPELINE" to 741741.

You can also find the interim report, in its entirety, [here](#).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to award grants to organizations or coalitions of organizations, including cities, villages, towns, and counties, for suicide prevention programming. A grant recipient must contribute matching funds or in-kind services having a value equal to at least 20 percent of the grant amount. For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3872/1
KP:skw&kjf

2019 BILL

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.435 (5) (ef) and 51.72 of the statutes; **relating to:** grants
2 for suicide prevention programming and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to award grants to organizations or coalitions of organizations, including cities, villages, towns, and counties, for suicide prevention programming. A grant recipient must contribute matching funds or in-kind services having a value equal to at least 20 percent of the grant amount.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
4 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

BILL

SECTION 1

2019-20

2020-21

1 **20.435 Health services, department of**

2 (5) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

3 (ef) Suicide prevention programming

4 grants	GPR	B	250,000	250,000
----------	-----	---	---------	---------

5 **SECTION 2.** 20.435 (5) (ef) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.435 (5) (ef) *Suicide prevention programming grants.* Biennially, the
7 amounts in the schedule for suicide prevention programming grants under s. 51.72.

8 **SECTION 3.** 51.72 of the statutes is created to read:

9 **51.72 Suicide prevention programming grants.** (1) From the
10 appropriation under s. 20.435 (5) (ef), the department shall award grants to
11 organizations or coalitions of organizations, which may include a city, village, town,
12 or county, for suicide prevention programming.

13 (2) The department may not award a grant under sub. (1) unless the recipient
14 contributes matching funds or in-kind services having a value equal to at least 20
15 percent of the grant.

16 (3) The department may not award a grant to a recipient under sub. (1) for an
17 amount that exceeds \$10,000 in a particular fiscal year.

18 (END)