



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Democratic Assembly Mental Health Committee Members Re-introduce the “Mental Healthcare is Healthcare” Legislative Package

MADISON—Today, the Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevention—State Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), Rep. Dave Considine (D-Baraboo), Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde (D-Milwaukee), and Rep. Lori Palmeri (D-Oshkosh)—introduced a legislative package with four bills to support mental healthcare access for K-12 and UW students. Rep. Vining, Rep. Considine, Rep. Moore Omokunde and Rep. Palmeri issued the following statement regarding this legislative package:

“Ensuring adequate mental healthcare for kids is critical not only for the wellbeing of our students, but also their academic success. Now more than ever, students need access to quality mental health resources and support. In order for schools to meet their students’ mental health needs, they need access to mental health providers—including resources from the state—and we need to better equip teachers with training on social and emotional learning.

“The stresses of being a college student can weigh heavily on individuals who often have to balance a full academic load along with a job, internship, volunteer work, social life, and self-care. These factors, along with other outside factors, can lead to higher rates of burnout and mental health issues. Students who seek out mental healthcare through the university often have to wait for a period of time of up to a month before university health services can fit them in the schedule due to a high demand for these services. Increased funding for university mental health services could help alleviate this issue by allowing universities to hire more mental health providers to keep up with demand.

“While we will continue to address the urgent mental health crisis in Wisconsin with solutions throughout this legislative session, these four bills will get much-needed resources into our schools and universities to help our kids and young-adults with their mental and behavioral health needs.

“Thank you to Rep. Kristina Shelton, Rep. Francesca Hong, Rep. Jodi Emerson, and Rep. LaKeshia Myers for partnering with the Democratic members of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevention on these bills. It’s time to invest in the health and wellbeing of Wisconsinites. Mental healthcare is healthcare, and we should treat it as such.”

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