



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rodriguez Supports Suicide Prevention Legislation

MADISON – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) joined her Assembly Republican colleagues in supporting several bills aimed at suicide prevention on Thursday. The legislative package came from recommendations by the Speaker’s Task Force on Suicide Prevention, a bipartisan group of lawmakers that held public hearings in different parts of the state spanning from April to September 2019.

“Communities throughout the state are battling the increase in suicide, which has surged dramatically over the last several years. This epidemic isn’t specific to only one group of people. It impacts the suburbs, the cities and even our rural areas,” said Rodriguez. “This package of legislation will help us begin to turn the tide on this issue.”

The package of bills includes grants for peer support groups in schools, funding for the suicide prevention hotline along with increased grant funding to grow mental health organizations that specialize in mental health and assist those with thoughts of suicide. The package included several other bills based on the task force recommendations.

“We know more work is needed, but this legislation helps us develop a path forward to find the answer to preventing suicide in Wisconsin,” said Rodriguez.

The committee was tasked with identifying methods to reverse the trend of increase death by suicide, the 10th leading cause of death in Wisconsin. Statewide, suicide resulted in 887 deaths in 2018. Each of the six public hearings held by the taskforce featured experts on suicide prevention including survivors, advocates and families impacted by suicide.

“I’m proud to see this bipartisan package of bills pass the Assembly today. It’s important that we continue to fight to reduce suicide in our communities and provide mental health resources to those who need them.”

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