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Rodriguez Supports Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda

MADISON – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) joined her Assembly Republican colleagues in supporting six bills aimed at preventing substance abuse. The package of bills come from an ongoing effort within the legislature called the Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda.

“The opioid epidemic has devastated our state for years, with especially unsettling outcomes for our Wisconsin families,” said Rodriguez. “This package of legislation builds upon our previous efforts to prevent substance abuse and provide support to those individuals who are suffering with addiction.”

Assembly Republicans have made efforts to reduce the impacts of the opioid epidemic since 2013. These efforts come on the heels of the second and third waves of the opioid epidemic in Wisconsin, which started in 2010 and 2014 respectively. The Assembly has passed 36 pieces of legislation aimed at reversing this ongoing crisis.

“Our caucus has been very proactive each session in our efforts to reduce opioid-related emergency room visits and deaths. In 2018 we saw a 10% drop in the number of opioid-related fatalities compared to 2017. This shows our reforms are working,” said Rodriguez, “but our work is not done.”

The bills passed today build upon past HOPE Agenda efforts by continuing the prescription drug monitoring program and increasing access to safe recovery housing. Additionally, [Assembly Bill 648](#), which Rep. Rodriguez supported in the Assembly Health Committee, will expand access to alternative, non-addictive pain management treatments such as physical therapy and acupuncture to individuals on the Medicaid program.

“I am proud to support these bills, and I am pleased to see the package pass the Assembly with bipartisan support. It’s important that we continue to make reforms to reduce the devastation this epidemic has caused in our state until we successfully end the crisis altogether.”

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