



TERRY KATSMAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-0656
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0026
Rep.Katsma@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

For Immediate Release
May 13th, 2015

Contact: Rep. Terry Katsma
(608) 266-0656

Promoting Good Health and a Drug-Free Workforce

Madison—Representative Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg) voted today to reform Wisconsin’s FoodShare (food stamp) program to promote good health and nutrition and reduce waste and abuse. [Assembly Bill 177](#) requires recipients to make healthier choices with their taxpayer-funded benefits.

“We spend more than a billion dollars every year providing FoodShare assistance to Wisconsin families,” said Rep. Katsma. “This legislation makes sure that we continue to help those who are truly in need while reducing the potential for the program to be misused.”

The bill requires that two-thirds of FoodShare benefits be spent on foods that are part of the federal supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC). In addition, recipients may purchase staple foods such as beef, pork, poultry, fish, potatoes and fresh produce as well dairy and cranberry products.

“The original intent of the food stamp program was to provide basic necessities, not luxury items, and this bill will move us back in that direction,” continued Rep. Katsma. “This bill passed in the Assembly with strong bipartisan support in the last session, and I’m glad to see it passed again.”

Rep. Katsma also voted for two bills that will help people fight substance abuse and get back to work. [Assembly Bill 191](#) and [Assembly Bill 192](#) allow for screening recipients of government job training programs and recipients of unemployment insurance benefits. If reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use exists, individuals would have to submit to a drug test; those who test positive would receive the necessary treatment to help them become employable citizens in Wisconsin.

“There are nearly 85,000 jobs available right now through the Job Center of Wisconsin, but one in every six unemployed workers is addicted to alcohol or drugs. These bills take meaningful steps toward identifying those individuals and providing them the help they need.”

The state Assembly passed the three public benefit reform bills, which now move to the state Senate for consideration.

###



TERRY KATSMAS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 26th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-0656
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0026
Rep.Katsma@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

Representative Terry Katsma represents the 26th Assembly District including the cities of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls; the villages of Adell, Oostburg, Random Lake and Cedar Grove; and the towns of Lima, Holland, Sherman and Wilson. He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and as a member of the committees on Consumer Protection, Housing and Real Estate, Ways and Means and Workforce Development.