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Rep. Zimmerman's NARCAN in Schools Bill Passes Assembly

Madison, WI...State Representative Shannon Zimmerman's (R-River Falls) bill that requires schools to have NARCAN on hand to combat overdoses was approved, on a bipartisan vote, by the State Assembly yesterday.

"Over the past several years, the Legislature has advanced legislation to address addiction issues in Wisconsin under the banner of the HOPE Agenda," Zimmerman said. "This legislation continues with that agenda and it will help fight against the addiction epidemic that is infiltrating our schools."

Assembly Bill 223 provides immunity to a school nurse who administers an opioid antagonist (NARCAN) to an individual who is experiencing a drug overdose. The immunity applies regardless of whether the student's parent or guardian or the student's physician, advanced practice nurse prescriber, or physician assistant gave authorization.

"Many of us know first-hand what drug addiction can do. If you or your family have faced this, you are not alone, "Zimmerman said. "This legislation will help students get lifesaving NARCAN in the event of an overdose and protects school nurses from liability."

The bill was recently approved unanimously by the Assembly Committee on Education and now moves on to the State Senate for consideration.

Rep. Shannon Zimmerman represents the 30th Assembly District which includes parts of St. Croix and Pierce Counties.

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