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Overdose Prevention Bill Passes State Assembly

Constituent inspired bill receives bipartisan support; moves onto state Senate

Madison- Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a number of bills that aim to combat substance abuse and addiction. Included in the package of Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) agenda bills was a bill introduced by Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam).

“I applaud today’s action on Assembly Bill 645, that will not only increase the number of lives saved from overdose, but also fully prepare jail staff in emergency situations where they are exposed to dangerous and powerful drugs,” said Born. “It’s absolutely critical that we provide our staff with the necessary tools to keep both themselves, and the individuals inside our jails, safe.”

Born introduced the bill after being contacted by Jason Hundt, Dodge County Deputy Jail Administrator about county jailers having the appropriate training and resources to administer Naloxone, a life-saving opioid antagonist used to completely or partially reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is more commonly referred to as Narcan.

“The passage of this bill is another step in the right direction in combating the opioid crisis that is hurting all of our communities,” said Jason Hundt, Dodge County Deputy Jail Administrator. “I want to thank Rep. Born for listening and advocating for this change to be included in this session’s HOPE Agenda. I look forward to working with him to make sure this important bill becomes law.”

AB 645 adds county jailers to the current state statute which establishes a framework for all levels of EMT and first responders to be trained on how to administer Narcan. This will be especially useful for county jails in smaller, rural communities who are not equipped with 24-hour nursing staff to administer Narcan.

AB 645 passed the Wisconsin State Assembly with unanimous support. Next, the bill needs to be taken up by the state Senate before heading to the Governor.

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