



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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PRESS RELEASE

REAL SOLUTIONS TO NURSING HOME FUNDING

MADISON - Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) applauded a plan to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for nursing homes through new revenues which has been introduced in the legislature. The plan is an alternative to the majority's veto override attempt.

Nursing home and pharmacies are struggling with low reimbursement rates and it is the legislature's job to give them the resources they need. Veto overrides are not the answer. Working with my colleagues on both sides of the isle to pass a responsible solution without delay is needed.

Representative Gary Sherman and Senator Bob Jauch have introduced legislation that would provide a 1.4 percent increase to nursing homes retroactively starting in January 2006. The measure would be paid for through the use of new revenue rather than through Department of Administration funds specifically earmarked for schools in the budget. If school funds were to be used it could also negate a property tax freeze put into the budget by Governor Doyle.

A plan to help small independent pharmacists who are most in need is in the works. Governor Doyle has directed DHFS to postpone any reduction of the pharmacy reimbursement rate for four months. During that time the Governor will assemble a coalition of pharmacists and other health care professionals in order to produce a long-term solution to the reimbursement system for pharmacists.

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