

For Immediate Release
January 4th, 2024

Contact: Rep. Karen Hurd
(608) 237-9168

Chippewa Valley Legislators Introduce Refugee Resettlement Notification

Madison – State Representatives Karen Hurd (R-Fall Creek), [Rob Summerfield](#) (R-Bloomer), [Clint Moses](#) (R-Menomonie), [Treig Pronschinske](#) (R-Mondovi), [Warren Petryk](#) (R-Town of Washington), and [David Armstrong](#) (R-Rice Lake) along with State Senators [Cory Tomczyk](#) (R-Mosinee), [Jesse James](#) (R-Altoona) circulated legislation today that would require public notice for potential refugee resettlements in Wisconsin. Following the circulation of the draft, the area legislators issued the following statements:

Rep. Karen Hurd, emphasizes that this legislation “ensures that elected officials, the people’s representatives at the local level, are part of the consultation process when refugees are being placed.” The bill’s Senate lead, Sen. Cory Tomczyk, said, “A large influx of people can be crushing to a small community’s infrastructure and way of life. Wisconsinites should know who is making decisions on their behalf and how they can share their concerns. This bill is no-brainer for anyone who values the input of their neighbors.”

“This bill simply puts a process in place for when refugee resettlement situations come up,” said Rep. Pronschinske, echoing their sentiments. “Community members affected by a resettlement process would feel far more confident if there are deliberate steps taken to make sure everyone is on the same page.” Rep. Summerfield added, “This bill will help make sure that the public has input into a decision like this so that everyone is aware of the steps that need to be taken.”

“Our local communities deserve a seat at the table when it comes to these decisions,” concluded Senator James. “This legislation establishes clear lines of communication between local, state, and federal officials.”

Federal law 8 USC 1522 requires the federal government to consult with state and local governments before refugee placement; however, with whom they consult is not spelled out in federal law. This creates an environment in which only a small minority of local governments potentially impacted by the placement might know that a placement is being considered or about to take place. The bill circulated today would ensure contacts between the federal government and local officials are made public, and that constituents get an opportunity to have their voices heard.



KAREN HURD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 68TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

The move comes after Eau Claire city officials unilaterally coordinated with World Relief to resettle 75 refugees in the Chippewa Valley without consulting other local stakeholders or the general public.

###

The 68th Assembly District includes portions of Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Clark Counties including the communities of Altoona, Fall Creek, Augusta, Fairchild, Greenwood, Owen, Withee, Thorp, Cadott, Boyd, Stanley, the Town of Lafayette, and parts of Eau Claire.