



TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:
September 25th, 2020

Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
(608) 266-7015

Elderly Visitation is Essential

The past 7 months have been difficult and incredibly stressful. However, as we finally start to approach the end of 2020, there is some good news.

I recently sent a letter to our Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm encouraging her and the department to implement a system to allow visitors for patients in nursing homes much like the system across the river in Minnesota. With winter coming, standing outside a window is not going to work. As a result of my letter to the department, there have been guidance changes to give nursing homes the option to allow essential visitors to care for their close friend or family member.

Over the last couple of months, visitation has been through a window, a phone call or even using FaceTime, but these have not had the same impact. Many of these individuals in nursing homes are facing dementia and other deteriorating mental health issues that are now making them feel abandoned by their family and friends. Many of my constituents have reached out expressing their concerns that their loved ones in the nursing homes are feeling as though they are being ignored and forgotten about towards the end of their lives.

In the 92nd Assembly District, we have a multitude of nursing homes as well as across Western Wisconsin. While these vulnerable individuals need to be protected, with proper precaution and PPE, we can make their lives better.

Please visit the “Essential Visitor Guidance for Nursing Homes” section of the official Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) website for more information at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm>.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

###