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The Cost of Addiction

We are a part of one of the biggest battles the world has ever seen, fighting drug addiction. It is time that we as Wisconsinites fight back against this crisis and help the people of our great state get the help that they deserve to end drug addiction.

In Wisconsin, there has been a rise in drug abuse with the opioid addiction at one of the highest rates ever seen before across the state. I believe that we can lower this rate by educating the people of the short and long-term effects of drug addiction, utilizing existing resources, and ensuring that children are not gaining access to dangerous substances.

Mental and physical health of the individual are both effected due to drug addiction, but families and friends are seeing the impact as well. Not only are the individuals being effected, but I also see families and friends facing emotional and sometimes financial turmoil to one's addiction. Unfortunately, individuals with drug addictions are losing meaningful relationships with family and friends. This can be especially seen in cases of an overdose where sometimes children are left behind.

Remember that it is important to keep dangerous substances out of reach and out of sight. Taking preventative measures by not allowing unauthorized access to dangerous substances is important. Furthermore, there are programs across the state that you can take unused prescription drugs to so that they are not easily accessible around the house. Dose of Reality is a great resource to find information and sites to dispose of unwanted prescriptions and other drugs at doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/.

There are many other useful hotlines, programs, services and websites out there to combat against drug abuse and addiction. The National Institute on Drug Abuse at www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/ has a lot of useful information such as research and helpful links to various drugs that are often abused. In addition, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Helpline at www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline is a free and confidential helpline available 24/7 for individuals and families struggling with drug abuse.

I hope that together we can combat this awful crisis and save our communities.

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