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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Protecting Our Communities

In today's society it is not uncommon for children to be caught with some sort of drug in their possession, which is sad to say. I believe there needs to be a stronger emphasis on educating both children and adults in our community on the dangers of drugs and how to spot drug abuse.

Two weeks ago I attended a seminar on this very issue and I thought it was done very well. The event was put on by a detective along with many others involved such as the Buffalo County Partnership Council, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, Buffalo County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and many more to discuss warning signs, provide mock examples, and also offer resources that may be useful. The event is intended for adults to educate them on signs of drug use and abuse.

It is extremely important for adults and parents more specifically to know and understand drug identification and what drug paraphernalia is. The question brought to our attention at the seminar was if you as a parent saw a lighter on your child's bedside table, would you take action and ask questions or just simply let it be. It is a tough situation and many parents will have no clue on how to respond. But seminars such as these can be used as a helpful tool to provide beneficial information to our communities.

Public awareness is key to stopping and preventing drug use and abuse by children and teens for the future. This drug seminar highlights resources that may be used in identifying drug and vaping devices that may be hidden in plain sight. I know how difficult it can be to get into a situation such as this because I see it all across the state. When I go to sporting events, picnics, and other events throughout our communities I hear parents talking about the epidemic of vaping and using drugs.

For future events and more information on the organization, please visit <https://buffalo.extension.wisc.edu/4hyd/yd/bcpc/> or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/buffalocountypartnershipcouncil/>. It is a great opportunity to learn more on warning signs of drug use and abuse and I encourage everybody to attend!

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

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