

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE DOYLE

94th DISTRICT

For Immediate Release February 4, 2015 Contact: Rep. Steve Doyle (608) 266-0631

## REP DOYLE DISAPPOINTED BY CUTS TO SENIORCARE IN BUDGET

MADISON – Representative Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) was disappointed to learn that a serious cut to SeniorCare was included as part of the Governor's budget proposal announced Tuesday evening.

"One of the things that the Governor didn't mention last night in his speech was a proposed \$15 million cut to SeniorCare" said Doyle. Closer examination has revealed that this highly controversial issue was hidden under other more publicized policy announcements. "\$15 million represents 40% or nearly half of SeniorCare's total budget for the next two years."

SeniorCare provides low-cost, life-saving prescription drugs to approximately 85,000 Wisconsinites over 65. The program has been praised for its simple enrollment process, enrollment fee of only \$30, and income-based deductibles. In comparison to Medicare Part D, Wisconsinites on SeniorCare save hundreds of dollars every year through their prescription drug benefits.

"SeniorCare is a great program," said Doyle. "Seniors in Wisconsin are served well by the benefits they receive."

"What is even more surprising is that this cut represents the second time that there has been an attempt to harm SeniorCare," said Doyle. "Back in 2011, the budget proposal to defund SeniorCare was met with so much opposition that the idea was dropped entirely."

During that time, Doyle and other representatives collected and delivered a 15,000 signature petition calling on the Legislature to save SeniorCare.

"I am hopeful that we will be able to once again save SeniorCare and ensure that our greatest generation is protected from the rising cost of prescription drugs," said Doyle.

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