



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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More HOPE for Wisconsinites Struggling With Addiction *Assembly Approves Four Bills to Combat Prescription Opioid Abuse and Addiction*

Madison – Tuesday, State Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement regarding unanimous Assembly approval of four additional HOPE (Heroin, Opioid Prevention and Education) Agenda bills:

“When we began our efforts with the HOPE Agenda in 2013, we focused on fighting Wisconsin’s devastating heroin epidemic. This session, we’re concentrating on what many consider is the root of our state’s heroin problem: prescription opioid abuse and addiction.

“The four bills approved unanimously by the Assembly today will help fight drug addiction by combatting the misuse and abuse of prescription opioids. The first two proposals deal with Wisconsin’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), and the other two bills focus on gathering information from pain clinics and methadone clinics.”

The following is a short description of each of the four pieces of legislation:

Assembly Bill 364: This bill changes the requirement for those who dispense certain prescription drugs to submit information to the PDMP from 7 days to 24 hours. It will also require a practitioner to review a patient’s record when initially prescribing a monitored prescription drug (for example, a Schedule II drug).

Assembly Bill 365: This bill states that when law enforcement encounters an inappropriate use or an infraction of the law concerning scheduled drugs, they upload that information into the PDMP and have the PDMP notify the physician. There are exceptions for on-going investigations.

Assembly Bill 366: This bill gives the Department of Health Services (DHS) oversight over the operation of pain management clinics across the state. The department’s oversight would not be regulatory, but would be a way of providing safeguards so “pill mills” don’t pop up in our state.

Assembly Bill 367: This bill requires methadone clinics to gather data such as staffing ratios, the number of patients receiving behavioral health services with the medication, and average mileage an individual is traveling to come to a clinic. This information will then be reported to



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DHS on an annual basis to give public health and treatment professionals a chance to analyze outcome data.

“Thank you to everyone who has helped make the HOPE Agenda a reality. Law enforcement and members of the medical community have been integral to this legislative package, and I greatly appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge. My legislative colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including Representative Kolste, have given vital input that has helped shape this important effort. Attorney General Brad Schimel has played an important role by initiating the conversation about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and for helping to reduce the stigma behind drug addiction. Finally, thank you to all of the advocates and families statewide who have been affected by addiction and those who have shared their stories. Together, we will continue to fight the devastating effects of addiction in Wisconsin.”

Assembly Bills 364, 365, 366, and 367 will now be sent to the Senate for passage.

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