



# John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Rep. Nygren to Co-Chair Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse

**Madison** – Today, Governor Walker declared a statewide advisory regarding the serious public health problem created by the opioid epidemic. The Governor also created a task force to continue a coordinated effort to tackle this epidemic. Representative John Nygren (R- Marinette) released the following statement regarding the task force:

“Wisconsin continues to lead in combatting heroin and prescription drug abuse. I am pleased that Governor Walker is looking to continue the efforts to combat the opioid epidemic that we began four years ago with the HOPE (Heroin, Opioid, Prescription and Education) Agenda. With the creation of this task force, we can continue to tackle the tougher issues of this epidemic such as access to treatment and the stigma attached to addiction.

Over the past few years, more and more people have been falling victim to potent, legal pain medications. The power of these addictions is devastating. Many times, an addiction to a prescription opioid can lead to a heroin addiction. The Governor signed 17 of my bills to combat this problem. I am eternally grateful for the encouragement of everyone in the Legislature that supported our efforts and voted unanimously to pass each piece of legislation. In order to continue to fight this epidemic, we need to work to stop addiction before it begins and to change the perception of addiction. This task force will give us the forum to look for ways to tackle the big issues that are left; perception of addiction, prevention and treatment. Thank you Governor Walker for helping us attack this issue head on.”

I look forward to working on this important issue with Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch, agency heads, advocacy groups and many other stakeholders to advance our agenda.”

For more information on the legislative efforts to fight the opioid epidemic, visit the HOPE Agenda website at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/hope>.

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