



JOAN BALLWEG

STATE SENATOR · 14TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ballweg's Kinship Care Bill Signed

Madison... Senator Joan Ballweg's (R-Markesan) kinship care bill was signed into law on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

[2023 Wisconsin Act 119](#) was signed by Governor Evers and expands the state's kinship care program to include 'like-kin'. This bill was supported by children and family organizations in Wisconsin as well as the tribal nations in the state.

"I am proud to have this bill signed into law," said Ballweg. "This legislation will be especially impactful for teens in Wisconsin who are in need of guardianship. Act 119 will also provide clarity for the placement, when necessary, of Native American children."

This legislation defines like-kin as an individual who has a significant emotional connection with a child or the child's family that is similar to a familial relationship and who is not and has not previously been the child's licensed foster parent.

Senator Ballweg's work on this legislation came after her efforts on the 2023-25 Wisconsin State Budget and builds on her commitment to further policies that support children and families in the state.

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To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. Follow the 14th Senate District by liking the Wisconsin State Senator Joan Ballweg Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WISenBallweg).