

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Senator Patrick Testin (608) 266-3123

April 21, 2020

Sen. Testin's "Standing with Dignity Act" Signed by Gov. Evers

Legislation Improves Access to Standing Wheelchairs for People with Disabilities

Madison, WI: Technology has the power to transform lives, and thanks to the newly enacted "Standing with Dignity" bill, disabled Wisconsinites will now have improved access to high-tech wheelchairs that can improve their quality of life.

The bill, which was authored by Senators Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) and LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) and Representatives Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac) and Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg) passed the legislature with bi-partisan support and was signed into law by Governor Evers earlier this week.

Standing wheelchairs utilize state-of-the-art technology to give the user mobility from a sitting or standing position while also providing numerous health benefits.

"We know that standing can improve kidney, cardio-pulmonary, bladder, and G.I. function," said Senator Testin. "Additionally, standing helps reduce the presence of pressure sores and skin ulcerations which cause great discomfort and often result in surgeries costing Medicaid hundreds of thousands of dollars. By reducing wait times for standing wheelchairs we're helping people with disabilities live better lives sooner."

The bill, known as the Standing with Dignity Act, is now Act 186.