## WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
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# *PRESS RELEASE*

October 30, 2019

### "Bailey's Bill" Earns Support from Assembly Committee on Health
*Bill Authored by Rep. Kurtz, Sen. Testin Would Address Rural Dental Shortages*

**Madison, WI –** "Bailey's Bill", a legislative proposal that would improve access to rural dental care, passed through the Assembly Committee on Health with bi-partisan support on Wednesday. Rep. Tony Kurtz (Wonewoc) and Sen. Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) are the authors of the bill, which would create a scholarship program at the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD) -Wisconsin's only dental school - for students who agree to provide dental service in a Wisconsin rural dental health professional shortage area (DHPSA). The bill is named for Bailey Miller, a student from Rep. Kurtz's district who wishes to pursue a career in dentistry.

Graduates would be required to provide service for eighteen months for every twelve months they took the scholarship.

"There's a lot of evidence that people will remain in a place once they are established in their job," said Rep. Kurtz. "This bill would encourage young people like Bailey who want to return to their home area and provide their neighbors with access to high quality dental care."

Senator Testin was pleased with the bi-partisan support for the bill, which he hopes is an indicator of things to come.

"Today's bi-partisan vote in the Assembly Committee on Health is encouraging," said Sen. Testin. "Improving access to dentistry in Western, Central, and Northern Wisconsin is a goal that we should all be able to get behind, and I believe that the Senate, Assembly, and Governor should all back this bill."

The bill, which is co-authored by Rep. Jesse James (Altoona) and Sen. Tom Tiffany (Minocqua) is a priority of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative – a group of legislators committed to bridging the gap between rural and urban areas. For more information, please visit www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com.

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