



PRESS RELEASE

February 19, 2019

Bi-Partisan Group of Legislators to Reintroduce “Credit for Caring Act”

Sens. Patrick Testin and Bob Wirch, join Reps. Ken Skowronski and Deb Kolste to help family caregivers

Madison, WI – A bi-partisan group of legislators held a press conference on Tuesday to introduce a bill that would create a \$1,000 tax credit for people who serve as caregivers for a family member. The 2019 Credit for Caring Act, authored by Sens. Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Bob Wirch (Somers) in the Senate and Reps. Ken Skowronski (Franklin) and Deb Kolste (Janesville) in the Assembly, is targeted at individual caregivers making less than \$75,000 per year or couples making less than \$150,000.

“Creating this tax credit will help more seniors stay at home. It helps alleviate some stress on their families, and in the long run, it’s more cost-effective for taxpayers,” said Sen. Testin. “The Credit for Caring Act is a win for everybody.”

Joining the legislators at the press conference were people representing advocacy groups from across Wisconsin.

“We’re grateful for the support of AARP-Wisconsin, the Alzheimer’s Association, and the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources,” said Rep. Skowronski. “We’ve built a strong bi-partisan coalition of legislators and advocates who understand the importance of making this investment.”

Rep. Deb Kolste, who has spent much of her career in the medical field, has seen first-hand the difference a family caregiver can make.

“The vast majority of caregivers are supporting a family member and are not being paid to provide that care. They are paying out-of-pocket to ensure that their loved ones are well taken care of, sometimes at great expense. This bill will allow them to lessen their tax burden and recover some of those costs.”

People over 65 years of age are making up a larger percentage of the population than in years past, and that trend is set to continue for several years.

“In Kenosha County, the number of residents over age 65 is expected to double in the next 20-25 years,” added Sen. Wirch. “The question of how to care for a loved one weighs heavily on many, and our bill lets middle class families know that they have caregiving options.”

The Credit for Caring Act began circulating for co-sponsors today and will be formally introduced in early March.

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