



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

January 17, 2018

Honorable Brad Schimel
Attorney General
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Attorney General Schimel,

Since 2013, the State Legislature has committed more than \$14 million to combatting Wisconsin's opioid epidemic through Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (H.O.P.E) legislation. Of course, this crisis has cost the state much more than that in increased costs for law enforcement, hospitalizations and emergency room visits, foster care placements and other services to children and families, first responders, court services, and other costs to various state departments.

During the last few months, two thirds of all counties in Wisconsin have filed or authorized the filing of lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies over "the aggressive and fraudulent marketing of prescription opioid painkillers that has led to this drug epidemic in the state and throughout the nation." Additionally, seven states have filed litigation of their own in federal courts.

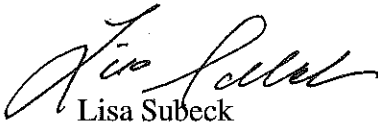
Opioid overdose deaths have almost doubled in Wisconsin from 5.9 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2006 to 10.7 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2015. The number of opioid related hospital visits in Wisconsin, which include both inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits, has also doubled over that time period. Statewide, a total of 1,824 individuals died from opioid overdoses between 2013 and 2015.

While pharmaceutical companies have profited from their arguably deceptive and fraudulent marketing of dangerous prescription drugs, countless Wisconsinites have lost their lives. Meanwhile, the taxpayers of Wisconsin have been left on the hook for the high cost of the opioid epidemic to our state.

We respectfully request that you join the growing number of states, Wisconsin counties, and local units of government nationwide by filing a lawsuit against prescription opioid manufacturers on behalf of the State of Wisconsin. It is time to hold these pharmaceutical companies accountable for what they have cost our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

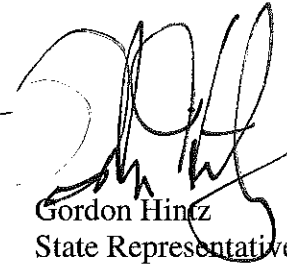
Sincerely,



Lisa Subeck
State Representative
78th Assembly District



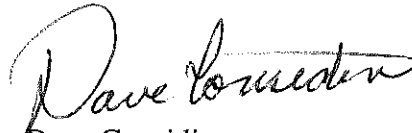
Debra Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District



Gordon Hincz
State Representative
54th Assembly District



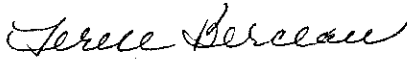
Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District



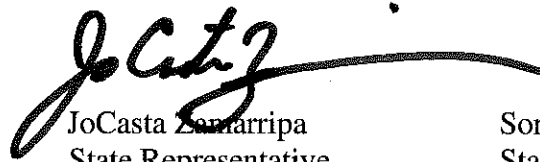
Dave Considine
State Representative
81st Assembly District



Dianne Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District



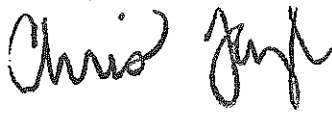
Terese Berceau
State Representative
77th Assembly District



JoCasta Zamarripa
State Representative
8th Assembly District



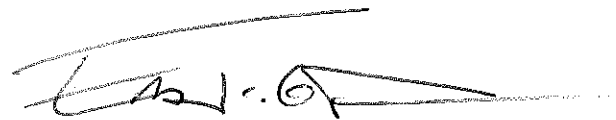
Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District



Chris Taylor
State Representative
76th Assembly District



Melissa Sargent
State Representative
48th Assembly District



Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District



Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District



Jimmy Anderson
State Representative
47th Assembly District



Gary Hebl
State Representative
46th Assembly District



Steve Doyle
State Representative
94th Assembly District



Tod Ohnstad
State Representative
65th Assembly District



Amanda Stuck
State Representative
57th Assembly District



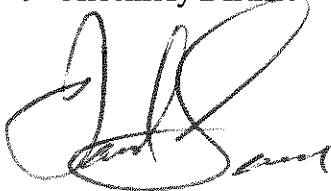
Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District



David Crowley
State Representative
17th Assembly District



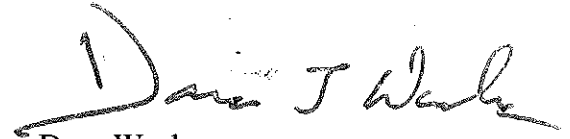
Jonathan Brostoff
State Representative
19th Assembly District



David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District



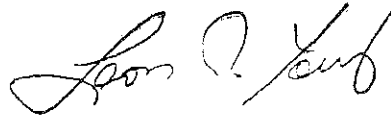
Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District



Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District



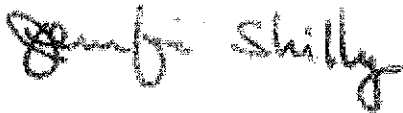
Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District



Leon Young
State Representative
16th Assembly District



Eric Genrich
State Representative
90th Assembly District



Jennifer Shilling
State Senator
32nd Senate District



Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District



Lena Taylor
State Senator
4th Senate District



Janis Ringhand
State Senator
15th Senate District



Fred Risser
State Senator
26th Senate District



Jon Erpenbach
State Senator
27th Senate District



Kathleen Vinehout
State Senator
31st Senate District



Janet Bewley
State Senator
25th Senate District



Dave Hansen
State Senator
30th Senate District