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Legislators Announce Homelessness Bill Package

Wisconsin legislators unveil bill package to address homelessness.

Wausau- Today, Assembly Republicans announced a package of eight bills aimed at addressing homelessness in Wisconsin. Following the press conference, Representative Snyder (R-Schofield), who is one of the bill authors, made the following statement:

"This legislation builds on the series of bills that the Assembly passed last session to improve supports and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin," Rep. Snyder said. "I am excited to take the next step in preventing and reducing homelessness."

The eight bills being introduced are aimed at increasing funding to the Homeless Prevention Program; the State Shelter Subsidy Grant Program; the Housing Assistance Program; the Homeless Case Management Services Program; and the Skills Enhancement Program. This bill package also creates the Housing Navigation Grant, a forgivable loan program, and increases services for the homeless youth.

"Through my experiences as a member of the Marathon County Hunger and Homelessness Coalition, I have witnessed first-hand a number of individuals in my community who are experiencing homelessness," Rep. Snyder commented, "which is why I am happy to sponsor a package of bills that aims to reduce this statewide issue."

The legislative package contains many recommendations from the Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness' Statewide Action Plan. The Interagency Council on Homeless was created last session as a result of a previous homelessness prevention initiative, with the task of creating agency cooperation regarding the topic of homelessness. The Council published its Statewide Action Plan, called A Hand and A Home in December 2018. The plan can be found here.

Assembly Republicans will be introducing this legislation for co-sponsorship today.