



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BETH MEYERS

For Immediate Release:
March 25th, 2019

Contact: Rep. Beth Meyers
(888) 534-0074

Rep. Meyers Announced as Member on Task Force on Suicide Prevention

MADISON – Rep. Beth Meyers (D-Bayfield) has been named alongside 14 of her colleagues to be a member of the Speaker’s Task Force on Suicide Prevention. The bipartisan task force will make policy recommendations to combat the rising rates of suicide in our state.

“Suicide takes a serious toll on family, friends and communities, and the problem is only getting worse,” said Rep. Meyers. **“In my district, increased isolation, lack of mental health services and a growing opioid epidemic have led to a perfect storm of rising suicide rates. I’m grateful to Speaker Vos for creating this task force to address this important issue.”**

Each year, over 700 Wisconsin residents die by suicide, and approximately 5,500 Wisconsin residents are hospitalized due to intentional, self-inflicted injury. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of years of potential life lost before age 65. The suicide rate in Wisconsin has jumped 25 percent in the past 20 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nearly three of every four gun deaths in Wisconsin are suicides, according to a 2017 study by UW-Madison, well above the national average.

“I’m hopeful that this bipartisan task force will give a voice to people struggling across the state. Suicide is preventable, and we need to be doing everything we can.”

If you need help now, please call the National Suicide Prevention hotline – 1-800-273-8255

###