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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April 23, 2019
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Steineke Testifies for Homelessness Legislation

MADISON – Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) joined homeless advocates and legislative colleagues today as Assembly committees held public hearings for the “A Hand for the Homeless” legislative package. The package of eight bills was introduced in February by Assembly Republicans, with the legislation drawing directly from the Interagency Council on Homelessness’s four-year action plan, [“A Hand and a Home: Foundations for Success.”](#)

“I’m incredibly proud to be continuing the conversation on a topic that’s been at the forefront of my mind for years,” said Rep. Steineke, [who authored the bill that created the Interagency Council on Homelessness in 2017](#). “It is an honor to stand beside the passionate and knowledgeable stakeholders from around the state who are putting the work in to combat homelessness in Wisconsin.”

Rep. Steineke’s bill, Assembly Bill 119, received its public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform. The legislation adds \$500,000 annually to the State Shelter Subsidy Grant program, a 50% increase to the fund and its first major increase since its creation in 1994. A significant piece of the bill is the addition of performance metrics to incentivize shelters to responsibly transition individuals into permanent housing.

“The council has put in an incredible amount of time and effort to create the comprehensive, state-wide plan – now we in the legislature are following through to make that plan a reality,” continued Rep. Steineke. “I look forward to seeing these bills receive bi-partisan support, so we as a state can ensure everyone in Wisconsin has a place to call home.”

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