



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Rep. Nancy VanderMeer  
(608) 266-8366

September 12, 2019

## Weekly Radio Address: Suicide Prevention

**MADISON** - Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) talks about the work of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention.

*Hello, I'm Representative Nancy VanderMeer.*

*This is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It coincides with the final meeting of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention.*

*As a member of this bipartisan group, I have been moved by the many survivors, family members, advocates, and experts who attended our public hearings, and offered their insight.*

*In Wisconsin, someone dies of suicide every 9 hours – that's more than 900 deaths a year.*

*The highest rate is among adults between the ages of 45-54. Also, suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents between 10 and 19.*

*The suicide rate is significantly higher in rural areas.*

*Our goal is to reverse this deadly trend.*

*The testimony shared with us across the state will help us as we identify ways to target and assist those at-risk, including farmers and young people.*

*We are currently working together to finalize our recommendations to the legislature.*

*Because Wisconsin lives depend on it.*

###