



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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Oldenburg Releases Farmer Tuition Assistance Bill as Speaker's Task on Suicide Prevention Comes to a Close

MADISON - Rep. Oldenburg (Viroqua) and fellow members of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention released a bill package this afternoon in response to findings of the task force.

“Serving as a member of the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention has been an overwhelming learning experience,” said Rep. Oldenburg. “As a farmer I know that my entire farm operation is my responsibility. Understanding business and finance skills is crucial my farming operation. The stress of running a farm is significant. I believe the bill I released today will help other famers know they are not alone, learn new business skills, and develop a community of shared experience.”

Rep. Oldenburg's bill allows for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to provide tuition assistance grants to farmers. These tuition assistance grants can be used to take courses at technical colleges that relate to farm business and production management. The courses will allow farmers to learn, as a community, about the best practices for their farms. Testimony provided to the Task Force illustrated how important it is for farmers to be connected to a support system.

If you or someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 or text “HOPELINE” to 741741.

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The 96th Assembly District includes all of Crawford county, most of Vernon county, and a portion of Monroe county. The largest cities within the district are Prairie du Chien and Viroqua.