



MIKE ROHRKASTE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 55TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: State Representative Mike Rohrkaste

October 9, 2019

(608) 266-5719

Rep. Mike Rohrkaste Not Seeking Re-Election to State Assembly

Neenah, WI – Representative Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah) will retire from the Wisconsin State Assembly at the conclusion of the 2019-20 legislative session. His decision reflects his recent selection as the Executive Director of the Fox Valley Memory Project, a collaborative nonprofit organization helping improve the quality of life for those experiencing dementia as well as their families, care partners and friends. In addition to expanding programs to support people in the Fox Valley living with dementia and their care partners, he will also continue to advocate for related future policy enhancements in the State Capitol.

Since first elected in 2014, Representative Rohrkaste has earned a reputation as a leading voice on bipartisan health care and workforce development issues, receiving more than two dozen awards in recognition of his work. In the Assembly, he served as Chair of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia and spent two terms on the budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance. There he diligently pursued increased funding for Wisconsin Technical Colleges, adding Dementia Care Specialists in county ADRCs, and helping to achieve the largest increase in funding for nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and personal care workers in decades.

Unsurprisingly, especially given his background in Human Resources, Representative Rohrkaste authored bills signed into law that help the state fill its workforce needs and help Wisconsinites achieve better health outcomes. These bills included expanding apprenticeship programs, improving mammogram reports to help early detection of breast cancer, and attracting more workers to Wisconsin. It is his work on the Dementia Task Force that particularly stands out. In addition to the three bills signed into law which deal with [dementia crisis units](#), [respite care](#), and [dementia training grants](#), the Task Force also issued longer-term goals which continue to be addressed by a long-term team of state, private sector and health care professionals working to improve state support for people living with dementia and their care partners.

Representative Rohrkaste said the following about his retirement: “It has been one of my life’s great honors to serve in the state Assembly. I wish my friends and colleagues the best. Above all, though, it was the people of the 55th District that made my time as their representative so memorable. I look forward to continuing to give back in the years to come to the community that has given so much to my family and me.”

###