



JIM STEINEKE

MAJORITY LEADER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-2401
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0005
Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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To My Assembly Colleagues,

On Tuesday, Assembly leaders announced that our body will be voting at this Thursday's session day to override three items Governor Evers vetoed from the WISCONSIN Budget. These items were included in the budget to reflect our state's need for a concerted commitment to mental health access and resources.

We have made strides in addressing and championing mental health initiatives. Now is not the time to turn our backs on this issue; rather, we should focus our efforts on the things we can do to best serve Wisconsinites. Righting the wrongful vetoes of these meaningful mental health items is a step in that direction.

While it may be easy for some to focus on Madison and Milwaukee, every corner of our state from Superior to La Crosse to Kenosha to Green Bay deserves our attention and support. Today, law enforcement in Superior have an 11-hour round trip if they need to transport someone to a mental health facility, and law enforcement from Eau Claire have a 4-hour drive for the same purpose. The time, resources, and toll this takes on our officers is one of the many reasons we need to take a stand on Thursday to fight for mental health.

As legislators, it is our job to make the best – and sometimes the toughest – decisions in the interest of our constituents and state. Bringing these three mental health items to the floor for a vote is our chance to correct a mistake that will have serious consequences for Wisconsinites across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Steineke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jim Steineke
Assembly Majority Leader