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Minor Guardianship Legislation Takes Next Step

MADISON – The Assembly approved legislation that will take crucial steps for Wisconsin’s minor guardianship laws at today’s session day. Assembly Bill 47 comes at the recommendation of the bipartisan Legislative Council Study Committee on Minor Guardianships, chaired by Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna).

The Study Committee was formed at the request of Rep. Steineke after [a constituent of his brought the issue to his attention](#). After finding her niece in an abusive situation, the constituent encountered hurdle after hurdle in trying to help the child.

“After looking into the issue, it became evident that there are countless instances of Wisconsin’s minor guardianship laws actively acting against the best interest of the child,” said Rep. Steineke. “First and foremost, my goal in chairing the Study Committee was to make sure our most vulnerable kids get the consideration and advocacy they deserve.”

After meeting over the summer and fall of 2018, the Study Committee unanimously approved recommending legislation that would restructure and clarify minor guardianship laws in Wisconsin. In February of 2019, Assembly Bill 47 was introduced, making key changes for children, families, and guardians within the minor guardianship system, including moving the laws to a new chapter, and creating four types of guardianships for a minor where there were previously just two.

“This is such an important issue for families around Wisconsin, and I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan work we have done to get this to the Assembly floor today,” continued Rep. Steineke. “This bill is a great reminder of the power that one person with a mission and a passion can have on our state.”

Assembly Bill 47 passed in the Assembly unanimously, and now heads to the State Senate for approval.

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