



SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Sortwell Encourages Nursing Homes to Allow Safe Visits for Family

Two Rivers – Rep. Shae Sortwell (R-Gibson) released the following request in response to contacts from constituents who are still unable to visit elderly and disabled family members in nursing and assisted living homes one month after Governor Evers’ Safer at Home order has been lifted.

“Now that Safer at Home has been lifted and the Coronavirus data shows strong trends in the right direction, I am making a personal appeal that nursing and assisted living facilities work with our communities to allow for safe visitations.” said Rep. Sortwell. “We have become aware of at least one local facility that allows for in-person family visitations. They have strict guidelines to protect the health of those under their care: visits must be outside, for a maximum of 30 minutes, 5 visitors or less, socially-distanced at 6 feet apart, and participants must wear masks and refrain from physical contact. That is in keeping with all the best practices we have been given by the experts these last few months.

“While every facility has the prerogative and the right to follow their own policies, it seems to me and others I’ve talked to that these common sense guidelines could provide real mental, emotional, and spiritual relief for everyone who has been forced to stay away from their loved ones for nearly three months now.

“We know that isolation, depression, and loneliness can be extremely harmful to health and well-being. If common sense safety policies can provide relief to families who are hurting and in need of visiting their loved ones, they should at least be earnestly considered. The people of our communities deserve that much after all they have sacrificed during this pandemic.”

Representative Sortwell is available for comment.

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