

Sen. Taylor: Bipartisan legislators introduce bill to fund suicide prevention text hotline

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(MADISON) – Today, Senators Lena Taylor (D – Milwaukee), Alberta Darling (R – River Hills), and Janet Bewley (D – Ashland) along with Representatives Mike Rohrkaste (R – Neenah), Jim Steineke (R – Kaukauna), and André Jacque (R – DePere) introduced a bill to provide grant funding to the Center for Suicide Awareness to operate HOPELINE, a statewide, no cost, 24/7 text-based hotline providing support to those in need.

“Wisconsin’s suicide rate has increased between 2005 and 2015, and the suicide rate among teens has doubled between 2007 and 2015,” said Senator Lena Taylor (D – Milwaukee). This bill will help fund a critical, accessible service so that the Center for Suicide Awareness can continue to address this devastating issue.”

Senator Lena Taylor, along with other Democratic members of the Joint Committee on Finance, first introduced funding for HOPELINE in an omnibus motion during the 2017 – 2019 biannual budget.

The bill is supported by Mental Health America of Wisconsin, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Wisconsin (NAMI – WI), Wisconsin Council on Mental Health, Disability Rights Wisconsin, Wisconsin Family Ties, and Reentry Associates LLC.