

Palzewicz campaign: Suicide and mental health disorders major problems

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Brookfield, WI – Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for America's youth. Overall it is the tenth leading cause of death, and each day 20 veterans die by suicide. Democrat Tom Palzewicz, a U.S. Navy veteran, running for the Fifth Congressional District seat, understands that our healthcare system needs revision to turn that trend around.

There is a stigma attached to those suffering from mental health issues, and many who need care do not have access to care because of financial constraints. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) defined mental health treatment as essential.

"Healthcare is a human right and mental healthcare is an absolute must for our country," said Palzewicz. "We must ensure that everyone has access to affordable quality health care and that mental health services are covered. When Joe Biden was vice president under Barack Obama, he championed efforts to implement the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). We need to build on Obamacare to ensure universal health coverage."

"Rural communities need access to broadband to accelerate the deployment of telehealth for mental health and specialty care. We need a comprehensive plan to help veterans and their families, but with dismantling the ACA, what will take its place?"

"Even after the enactment of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (Federal Parity Law) in 2008, we see some insurers continue to illegally deny coverage of care for mental health and addiction treatment services. How will you

ensure enforcement of the Federal Parity Law?”

“We need to protect and expand the ACA, and just as importantly, protect those with preexisting conditions. Poverty is a major factor in poor outcomes for mental health and addiction patients, which is all the more reason to bolster the ACA and work towards universal healthcare coverage.”

Palzewicz and the Democrats will support Joe Biden and enact the needed changes to ensure mental health coverage for all Americans. They must maintain the majority in the House of Representatives, so Tom Palzewicz and the majority can effect change.