

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2017

For more information contact: Speaker Robin Vos (608) 266-9171 Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (608) 267-5158 Rep. Rob Hutton (608) 267-9836 Rep. Janel Brandtjen (608) 267-2367 Rep. Dale Kooyenga (608) 266-9180

Assembly Republicans Ask DHS to Reconsider Dental Grant to Help Disabled

Madison...A group of Assembly Republicans from southeastern Wisconsin is calling on the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide resources to a Milwaukee dental clinic that provides services for those with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. The St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee did not receive the Dental Clinics – Increasing Access to Care grant for the first time in several years. Since it may be the only facility that provides dental care targeting this population, lawmakers would like the agency to reconsider its decision regarding the grant funding.

The Republican legislators made the plea to the state dental officer in a letter that points out, "there appears to be a critical population missing from the list of recipients. Specifically, a facility which predominately services those with special needs does not appear to have been selected for any funding."

The letter later says, "These (dental) procedures generally, not only take longer than a normal procedure, but may require a higher number of staff as well. In order to sustain these services for this critical population statewide, resources are needed to keep the doors open to those truly in need of this care."

The legislators look forward to hearing back from DHS on how this population can continue to get essential dental services at facilities like the St. Ann Center in Milwaukee.

###