



CHUCK WICHGERS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 83rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
August 5, 2019

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Rep. Wichgers Calls for Accountability at Department of Health Services *Recent Hearing Lacked Transparency – Demands Another Hearing*

Madison, WI – State Representative Chuck Wichgers (R-Muskego) is requesting the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to respond to citizens and advocates regarding the lack of openness during a recent hearing conducted by the department.

On Friday, July 26, 2019, DHS held a hearing regarding significant policy changes to vaccination requirements in Wisconsin. Rep. Wichgers, who attended the hearing, witnessed less than accommodating behavior shown towards attendees of the hearing. Citizens were cut off from petitioning their government and there appeared to be an element of partisanship on this issue.

“I attended the hearing and witnessed the agency’s efforts to stifle discussion. A number of Wisconsinites who had wished to speak were sent away, unfortunately some of those citizens traveled three or four hours and were abruptly dismissed. People were only given two minutes to speak and at the two-minute mark, the microphone was literally ripped from the hands of a person testifying. The hearing went exactly 60 minutes and then the hearing was immediately shut down.

“I shared my concerns regarding the lack of openness and lack of public input during the hearing. However, my opinion, like so many attending the hearing, left us with a feeling of indifference by the members of DHS. One of the fundamentals of good government is the ability for citizens to petition their government. A second principal is that of recourse – neither offered by this state agency,” stated Rep. Wichgers.

DHS began the hearing with testimony of those attending by Skype – and not of those who traveled great distances to speak. People who participated via Skype, though they spoke, could not be heard by those in attendance due to technical difficulties. Addressing these technical difficulties wasted valuable time for everyone in the room. For all of these reasons and more, Rep. Wichgers is demanding DHS hold another hearing on the same topic at its earliest convenience.

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The 83rd Assembly District includes Muskego, Waterford, Big Bend, Vernon, Town of Waukesha, East Troy, Franklin, and Hales Corners.