



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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Bill raising standards for sober living houses passes Assembly

The Wisconsin State Assembly on Tuesday passed legislation aimed at raising standards for sober living houses. Sober living houses are intended to be supportive residential environments for recovering drug addicts. However, a lack of adequate standards has led some sober living houses to be problematic.

As a continuation of Wisconsin's Heroin, Opiate, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Agenda, Rep. Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) worked with Reps. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Jon Plumer (R-Lodi) in crafting legislation which, among other things, requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a registry of approved recovery residences. The bill also provides for a nationally-recognized, state-based organization to provide certification of those homes. Only certified homes would be eligible for reimbursement from state or federal funds passing through the state treasury.

"Bringing a standardization to recovery housing and setting a level of expectation of what recovery housing is important," said Peter Brunzelle, Executive Director of WisHope. "Being able to provide a safe environment to people in recovery is an important aspect of integrating people back into the community."

"This is a significant incentive for sober living homes to start adhering to set standards," said Rep. Allen. "Sober living homes ought to be great partners in helping families and communities heal from past addictions, this is a step in the right direction."

The bill, AB 646, now goes to the Senate.

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*The 97th Assembly District includes portions of the City of Waukesha
and the Towns of Waukesha, Genesee, and Mukwonago.*