



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Emerson: Statement on AB 17 Passage

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed AB 17. This legislation would ensure that first responders are able to receive proper mental health treatment for PTSD caused by on the job duties. Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) who is a lead author of the bill, released the following statement in response:

“The time has come to put the mental health needs of our first responders before their call of duty. Exposure to traumatic events has been linked to psychological distress and many frontline workers experience these traumas on a daily basis. The news is full of examples of what happens when people who aren’t mentally healthy hold other people’s lives in their hands. Healthy first responders lead to healthy departments. Healthy departments lead to healthy communities. Early identification, intervention, and referrals to mental health providers are critical in helping to treat PTSD and decrease the incidence of anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide in first responders. I am thrilled that this critical piece of legislation has passed.”

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