



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Sends Letter to Rep Kind Regarding Illegal Drug and Illegal Immigrant Crisis at Southern Border**

**Madison, WI** – Today Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) sent a [letter](#) to Representative Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) along with a number of her colleagues in the State Assembly that also represent Assembly Districts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. The letter calls attention to the recent \$26 billion settlement that drug distributors have reached with state and local governments across the country, the \$400 million that the state of Wisconsin is set to receive from that settlement, the bipartisan work that the State Legislature has done to address opioid and substance abuse issues throughout the state, and concerns that Representative VanderMeer and her colleagues have with the disastrous border enforcement policies of the Biden Administration and Democrats in Congress.

“As elected representatives that share a number of mutual constituents with Representative Kind, my colleagues and I thought that it was critically important to share this message with him. He needs to understand that even though we’re in Wisconsin, the disastrous manner in which the Biden Administration and Congress is handling illegal immigration at the Southern Border has a direct and hazardous impact on the work we’ve done and continue to do with our local government and local law enforcement partners to try to help curb opioid and substance abuse in the local communities we represent. The bottom line here is that this affects friends and neighbors at the core of our communities,” VanderMeer shared.

The letter states that since the 2014-2015 Legislative Session, the State Legislature has produced over 30 pieces of legislation that have had broad bipartisan support and been enacted by both Republican and Democrat governors under the Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda. Additionally, the legislators also pointed out that [Wisconsin Act 57](#) - legislation they supported that was authored by Representative Jon Plumber (R-Lodi) and signed into law by Governor Tony Evers in June of this year – was designed to help guarantee the timely and equitable settlement of the drug distributor lawsuit for the 71 county governments that were a party to the lawsuit, including the counties of Monroe, Jackson, Wood and Portage Counties in the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

“This particular message focuses on illegal drugs and doesn’t even address the numerous additional concerns I have and I know a number of my colleagues and constituents share regarding the consequences of the open/lax border enforcement policies that the Biden Administration has implemented and Representative Kind’s Democrat Caucus colleagues openly support. As indicated, we’re simply asking him to do whatever he can to support strong border enforcement policies and prioritize the communities in and around the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and our mutual constituents above the wishes of dangerous open border advocates in Washington D.C.,” VanderMeer continued.

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties*