



The Center for Suicide Awareness
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www.centerforsuicideawareness.org

September 18, 2019

Rep. Chris Taylor

Finance Committee

Dear Rep. Taylor,

Gov. Evers provided funding in the budget for the Hope-Line and for our work at the Center and was approved by the legislature and as we understand that the Finance Committee will release the funds. Now we are told that the funding will be released after the Taskforce for Preventing Suicide is finished with their tabulating their information.

Can you explain what the Taskforce has to do with the dispensing of funds to us which has already been approved? Is the Taskforce trying to get this funding?

Barb Bigalke, who has training and experience with suicide issues for the past ten years, not only in the Fox Valley, but throughout all Wisconsin gathering as much information as possible. She provided all the information to all the legislators expressing the need for state funding to continue with our work in saving lives, but few took notice.

Once the funding for us was in the budget, Sen. Vos suddenly establishes the Taskforce for Suicide Prevention this past spring. Can you give us any other reason for starting this committee now? Are any of the members trained professionals?

Rep. Taylor, can you assure us that we will receive the funds approved for us and when will these funds be released? We are expecting to hear from you.

Sincerely,


Greg Pekarske-Siers

Outreach Coordinator