



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chippewa County Department of Public Health Names Senator Jesse James of Wisconsin's 23rd Senate District the 2025 Friend of Public Health Award Recipient

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis., Mar. 27, 2025 – The Chippewa County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is proud to announce Wisconsin State Senator Jesse James as the recipient of the 2025 Friend of Public Health Award. This award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the health and well-being of Chippewa County residents.

Senator James, representing District 23, is recognized for his steadfast commitment to protecting children, advocating for mental health, and addressing the opioid epidemic. As Chair of the Senate Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, and Children and Families Committee, and an appointee to the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA), he has championed policies that support families and promote public health initiatives.

Senator James has played a key role in expanding mental health resources, supporting prevention programs, and providing critical support for those affected by the opioid crisis. His leadership has also helped secure the Chippewa County Public Health Kiosk and 32 Overdose Aid Kits for local schools after speaking at the "I Choose My Future - One Pill Can Kill" event.

"Senator James's leadership is integral to our mission of making Chippewa County the healthiest place to live, learn, work, and play," said CCDPH Director/Health Officer Brittnay Fortuna. "His advocacy for public health and commitment to our community's well-being makes him a deserving recipient of this honor."

Senator James's dedication to public health and service has had a lasting impact on the community, making him a true champion for Chippewa County.

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