

From Rep. Jodi Emerson:

As I reflect on the first few weeks of this new job, I am so grateful for all the support and kind words I've received from so many of you. I wanted to update you on how the transition is going and what has been keeping me busy.

As many of you have heard, I will be sharing an office with Rep. Staush Gruszynski of Green Bay. While I am disappointed that Speaker Vos does not value elected officials enough to make sure we each have our own office, we are making it work. Rep. Gruszynski and I work well together and have done our best to not let office space get in the way of serving our constituents.

I did not receive my committee assignments until the day after inauguration and one of my committees had a hearing that week so it was a fast turn over to learn about the bill and get ready for the hearing.

I am on the Colleges and Universities, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Family Law, Aging and Long-Term Care and International Relations and Commerce committees. While I have quite a bit of experience and knowledge for some of these committees, others will take more research to get me up to speed on issues faces these communities.

I am most excited about being on the Colleges and Universities and Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committees. With UWEC and CVTC being such a large part of our district, I was honored to be appointed to help protect our higher education system. Also, with my background in fighting human trafficking and working with law enforcement, the Criminal Justice Committee was one of my top choices. I am hoping to bring common sense solutions to the Criminal Justice field that will balance the needs of law enforcement, victims and those who break the law. We must make sure that we are giving people ways to make amends while allowing them to still be a part of their family's lives and society as a whole. It is a balancing act but I feel that we are in need of a big change in Wisconsin to make our criminal justice system sustainable.

Please watch for updates about monthly listening sessions that I will be hosting in the district to hear your thoughts on issues facing our state and city. I have said from the very beginning that this job isn't about me, it's about you having a voice in your government. It's about me representing you in Madison.

After 8 years of single party control, it is a learning curve for most people in the Assembly to figure out how to govern while negotiating with the other party. I am excited to see what we can do in Madison with a Democratic Governor, and it is my pleasure to represent the people of the 91<sup>st</sup> in Madison!