



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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The Honorable Clint P. Moses, Chair
Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care
100 N Hamilton St, Madison, WI 53703
September 29, 2025

Written Proposal: AB 12 – Expanded Legal Protections and Volunteer Authority for Providers – Support if Amended

Dear Chairman Moses and members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Health,

We at Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) are writing to show our conditional support for AB 12, which aims to extend legal protections granted to physicians, physician assistants (PAs), as well as advanced practice nurse prescribers (APNPs). Specifically, it allows these professionals to lead local immunization programs. Our organization recognizes and commends the bill's intention to expand the capacity of healthcare coverage through volunteer service, which helps to contribute to public health and immunization efforts statewide.

While we support the principles behind AB 12, we respectfully raise the following concerns regarding its implementation:

- **Uneven Impact Across Communities:** Without criteria for prioritization, AB 12 has the potential to inadvertently benefit wealthier neighborhoods that have strong, existing volunteer networks rather than neighborhoods who are the intended benefactor for this bill. This risks reinforcing existing disparities in public health.
- **Centralized Discretion in DHS:** The bill grants the Department of Health Services (DHS) the authority to approve or deny participation by providers. Without a complete sense of transparency in how the DHS manages its decisions regarding these volunteers, inequities in where care is deployed may occur by accident.
- **Lack of Data Transparency:** As the bill stands currently, there is no requirement for the DHS to publish information regarding where providers are serving or how volunteer coverage impacts immunization rates, making it difficult to assess effectiveness or accountability.

To address these concerns, SPAN proposes the following amendments:

- **Prioritization of High-Need Areas:** Require the DHS to provide aid based on current distribution of inequity in healthcare access. This can be found using existing public health and demographic data.



- **Transparency in Placement:** Mandate that DHS publish annual reports on approved provider assignments. These reports include geographic distribution (urban vs. rural), number of providers who are covered, number of programs supported, as well as measurable impacts on the coverage of immunization, especially in underserved areas.
- **Public Accountability:** Ensure that this data is publicly available on DHS's website in order to encourage equity and continuous improvement in program effectiveness through public opinion.

With these amendments, AB 12 would be much more effective at its intended goal of expanding healthcare access through volunteer work, while ensuring that benefits are evenly distributed across Wisconsin.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to support AB 12 if amended to incorporate safeguards for equity, transparency, and accountability.

Thank you for your attention and continued leadership on behalf of Wisconsin patients.

Sincerely,

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