



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
October 19, 2025

Written Proposal: Assembly Bill 49 (Tittl) – Support if Amended

Dear Chairman Moses and members of the Committee on Health, Aging, and Long Term Care,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of Assembly Bill 49, which aims to expand healthcare autonomy for youth in Wisconsin. We recognize the importance of legislation that addresses youth autonomy in healthcare, especially those who may be unaccompanied.

Yet, as written, we find that this bill lacks many safeguards that may help to prevent misuse in provider decision-making and eligibility criteria. Strengthening these will allow provider accountability while putting Wisconsin's eligibility requirements in alignment with recommended ones in other states.

While we support the effort behind AB 49, we are particularly concerned about the following aspects of the bill in its current form:

- **Section 1 (3)(a):** This section currently states that physicians “may not be held liable in a civil or criminal action for providing those services without having obtained permission from the minor’s parent or guardian.” However, this lacks clear mechanisms for addressing negligence in the event that it happens. What this means is that minors can also have hurdles in procedures, as many have faced delayed treatment due to liability issues.
- **Section 1(2)(b):** This section has loose requirements that may create loopholes for people who may not have otherwise qualified for said benefits under this bill, only requiring one of 5 eligible persons to have an unaccompanied minor be confirmed for benefits.

To address these concerns, we propose the following amendments:

- **Physician Liability:** Amend **Section 1(3)(a)** to explicitly state that physicians will be able to be held liable if deemed necessary for negligent or harmful care to minors. This language should make sure that it clarifies that providers still remain subject to Wisconsin-level malpractice laws under this act, regardless of if they are treating an unaccompanied minor.



- **Strengthen Eligibility:** Amend **Section 1(2)(b)** to strike out “One of the following” and add “Two of the following”, as well as requiring annual review for prolonged care. This means that eligibility would be strengthened, improving accuracy in determining who may be an unaccompanied minor.

We believe these changes will help ensure the bill more effectively give healthcare stability to unaccompanied youth needs, while upholding patient rights, and promoting provider accountability. Thank you for your attention, and your continued leadership for Wisconsin patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnav Goyal", with a horizontal line underneath.

Arnav Goyal
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Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)