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## **Sen. Jacque Introduces Bi-Partisan Pre-Existing Condition Guaranteed Coverage Act**

(Madison, WI) State Senator André Jacque (R - De Pere) was joined by State Sen. Lena Taylor (D - Milwaukee), lead Assembly author State Representative Kevin Petersen (R – Waupaca) and more than 60 legislative co-sponsors today in the bi-partisan introduction of the Pre-Existing Condition Guaranteed Coverage Act.

*“One of the most important things we can do as a legislature is to help safeguard the well-being of our constituents. I am proud of our bill’s strong protections and bi-partisan leadership for guaranteeing health insurance companies cannot deny someone a policy on the basis of their pre-existing conditions, exclude coverage for treatment of their health conditions, or charge higher premiums on the basis of their medical history,”* Senator Jacque said, adding, *“This legislation will ensure that no matter what happens at the national level, here in Wisconsin our residents won’t be denied access to life-saving treatment or necessary healthcare just because of challenges they’ve already faced.”*

Cathy Mahaffey, CEO of Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative, praised the bill, saying, *“Wisconsin should not go backwards when it comes to protecting individuals with pre-existing conditions. Instead, let’s put these protections in state law and use that as a starting point toward a comprehensive Wisconsin solution that provides stable, high quality and more affordable health coverage for everyone.”*

According to a national state-by-state analysis from the non-profit Commonwealth Fund, passage of the legislation would enshrine pre-existing condition protections into Wisconsin law in a way that would make our state one of only five in the country and the only one in the Midwest to ensure that all three elements of pre-existing condition protections would remain in place for state residents regardless of changes at the national level: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2018/lawsuit-ACA-preexisting-condition-protections-where-you-live>

*“Wisconsin is a leader in healthcare quality and passing these strong protections will further aid our efforts as a leader in access in the Midwest and nationwide. As a bi-partisan team, we’re making a promise to Wisconsin citizens that their health insurance isn’t going anywhere and we hope our colleagues will join us in support of this important legislation,”* concluded Jacque.

Sen. André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin’s First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

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