



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Senate Passes Step Therapy Reform Bill

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), released the following statement following the passage of Senate Bill 26 in the Senate:

“I am happy to see that the bill that I authored with Senator Darling, aimed at expanding access to care for patients around the state, passed with unanimous support.”

“This common-sense, bipartisan legislation aims to provide exceptions to step-therapy protocols. I first was introduced to this issue through my work on substance abuse and the HOPE Agenda. Someone with an addiction is in a fragile state medically, and often, different forms of treatment may not work for many of them. In a life and death situation like substance abuse, affording flexibility to a physician is not only necessary, it’s the right thing to do.”

“After discussions with the Alliance of Health Insurers, the Wisconsin Association of Health Plans, and several patient advocacy groups, we crafted a bill that keeps the spirit, integrity, and patient protections of the original bill, while still ensuring the health plans have the ability to meaningfully utilize step therapy protocols in order to keep costs down.”

“The bill creates transparency for patients in how step therapy protocols are created. It also creates a clear exceptions process for patients, and will ensure that patients are able to access the healthcare their doctor is prescribing for them. At the same time, the amendment provides more flexibility for health plans and will ensure they are still able to use step therapy protocols in a meaningful way to keep costs down.”

“I would like to thank Senator Darling for shepherding this bill through the Senate. Additionally I’d like to express my gratitude to my Senate colleagues for their swift action on this bill. I look forward to passing this in Assembly soon.”

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