



TO: The Wisconsin State Legislature

FROM: Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology, Wisconsin Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics, Wisconsin Chapter – American College of Emergency Physicians, Wisconsin Dermatological Society, Wisconsin Medical Society, Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, Wisconsin Radiological Society, Wisconsin Society of Anesthesiologists

DATE: March 10, 2023

RE: **Please Do Not Cosponsor LRB 0589 – APRN Legislation – as Drafted**

The above organizations representing thousands of Wisconsin physicians respectfully request that you avoid cosponsoring LRB 0589, pertaining to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The proposal fails to reflect productive talks between physician and nursing groups, and greatly resembles legislation vetoed in the 2021-22 legislative session (2021 Senate Bill 394).

When Governor Tony Evers vetoed legislation in April 2022 that would have allowed broad independent nursing practices in the state, his [veto message](#) included his disappointment that the bill “[did] not address some of the issues raised by parties in the medical profession that went unremedied during the legislative process.” Those issues included ensuring nurses would first be required to gain significant “real world” experience working in a physician-led health care team, creating specific safety guardrails for nurses who wished to open pain medicine practices, and establishing “truth in advertising” provisions in state statute that would ensure terms referring to physicians and physician specialties can only be used by physicians.

Governor Evers’ 2023-25 biennial budget proposal included benchmarks in those important areas, and fit quite well with what physician and nursing entities have been discussing. We have kept the legislature informed about those discussions and had asked that an APRN bill be introduced when those discussions could finalize a framework that had a better chance to be signed into law.

LRB 0589 does not include that framework and falls short on adequate patient protections. Therefore, we request you not sign on to this APRN legislation until it is improved and can be considered a true “compromise” product. Thank you for your consideration.