



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY BERNIER

For Immediate Release

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BERNIER PROPOSALS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Supported Decision-Making and Dental Reimbursement Measure Become Law

Madison – Today at the State Capitol, Governor Scott Walker signed two bills, authored by Rep. Kathy Bernier (R- Lake Hallie), into law.

Assembly Bill 627 relates to the dental reimbursement pilot project, within the Medical Assistance (MA) program. The measure allows the Department of Human Services (DHS) to allocate funds, which might be left over after disbursement of monies to the four-county pilot program, to be directed to counties in need of increased dental reimbursement when excess funds exceed \$100,000.

“AB 627 provides an opportunity to expand this successful program and increase accessibility to dental care in our MA population”, Rep. Bernier said. “The bill further requires DHS to report cost-savings data, number of MA patients served, and provide an estimate of the potential reduction in health care costs and emergency department use by Medical Assistance recipients due to the pilot project.”

Assembly Bill 655, relating to supported decision-making agreements, incorporates “Supported Decision-Making” as a legally recognized agreement. These agreements address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, their support networks, and the professionals with whom they interact.

“Supported Decision-Making allows for older adults and people with disabilities to remain fully in charge of their decisions, while enabling them to access the support they need to make life decisions,” Rep. Bernier said. “Supported Decision-Making does not replace Wisconsin’s existing guardianship system, rather it simply provides an additional option for individuals and families seeking assistance with life decisions.”

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