



WISCONSIN ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

July 9, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Larry Pfeifer

Executive Director, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians

Larry@WAFP.org

### **Governor Tony Evers Signs Step Therapy Legislation**

MADISON - On Tuesday, July 9, the Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 26, the Step Therapy Reform Bill, into law. The legislation, authored by Senator Alberta Darling (R – River Hills) and Representative John Nygren (R – Marinette), allows physicians and patients to override step therapy protocols under certain conditions.

“By signing Senate Bill 26 into law, Governor Evers stood up for Wisconsin’s patients in ensuring their physicians, rather than insurance companies, have the tools to determine the best course of treatment,” said Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians President Dr. Lisa Dodson. “WAFP is grateful for the overwhelmingly bipartisan support for this bill. It’s a great day for Wisconsin patients.”

Step therapy is a tool commonly used by insurers to govern the order in which patients utilize certain therapies approved for a diagnosed condition. Step therapy processes are implemented for pharmaceutical therapies to treat a variety of diseases and chronic conditions, including Alzheimer’s, Cancer, Diabetes, HIV/AIDS and Mental Health. Under step therapy protocols, patients may be required to try one or more alternative prescription drugs chosen by their health plan before coverage is granted for the drug prescribed by that patient’s health care provider.

In some cases, step therapy protocols can negatively impact patients who need access to the pharmaceuticals their physicians prescribe. Senate Bill 26 maintains an insurer’s ability to set step therapy protocols while also providing physicians the ability to supersede those protocols when medically necessary and appropriate. The law will now take effect throughout the state.

The WAFP is a statewide association of Family Medicine physicians striving to promote excellence within the health care field and working to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin through the advancement of the art and science of Family Medicine. With over 3,000 members, the WAFP is the single largest physician specialty group in Wisconsin. In addition to practicing physicians, the WAFP also supports education and research programs for medical students.

###