

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. John Nygren February 5, 2020 (888) 534-0089

Rep. Nygren Testifies on Bipartisan Bill to Reduce Healthcare Costs

Madison--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), released the following statement after testifying on Assembly Bill 841 in the Assembly Committee on Health:

"Today I had the opportunity to testify on the bipartisan bill that I authored to reduce healthcare costs for consumers across Wisconsin," said Rep. Nygren. "Affordability in healthcare remains one of the biggest issues for families across Wisconsin. Bipartisan legislation like this can help reduce these out of pocket costs by a significant percentage."

"Wisconsin is known for its high-quality and affordable healthcare, but there is always more to do. The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) <u>named</u> Wisconsin 4th in the nation for highest overall health care quality among all 50 states. US News <u>ranked</u> Wisconsin's health care system as the 12th most affordable in the nation."

Assembly Bill 841 clarifies that Wisconsin health care providers may offer discounts to their patients who owe health insurance cost-sharing amounts and pay those amounts in a timely fashion. This would apply to common patient payments such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.

AB 841 is crafted to align the state statute with federal rules and guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. AB 841 would recognize that, under Wisconsin law, health care providers may offer a prompt-pay discount if, among other things, the discount, except as otherwise required by law, is not publicly advertised, the provider notifies the insurer of the provider's discount policy, and the discount bears a reasonable relationship to the amount of avoided collection costs.

"I would like to thank my colleagues, Representative Kolste (D-Janesville), Senator Kooyenga (R-Brookfield), and Senator Erpenbach (D-Westpoint) for their collaboration on this important issue", said Rep. Nygren. "I look forward to moving this bill through the legislative process expeditiously."

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