



MARY FELZKOWSKI

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Felzkowski's Healthcare Access Bills Pass State Senate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Madison, WI – On Wednesday, several health care initiatives authored by Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) passed the Senate floor unanimously. These bills expand access to health care for Wisconsinites statewide, and have strong bi-partisan support in both legislative chambers.

The first bill provides for the licensure of dental therapists, mid-level providers who are members of the dental care team serving under the supervision of a dentist that would be able to engage in limited practices of dentistry, such as fillings and sealants. Dental Therapists are currently authorized in 12 other states and over 50 countries.

“Right now, 64 of the 72 counties in Wisconsin include regions called dental health professional shortage areas (DHPSA). People all over the state are in dire need of oral health care, and they have severely limited options to receive it. Dental therapists are one crucial tool of a multi-pronged approach to increasing access to that care,” said Sen. Felzkowski. “I want to thank the over 60 groups in our coalition to expand oral health care that advocated for this profession over the last several years and truly highlighted the need for it.”

The second bill concerns complementary care, a non-medical type of health care used by millions of Americans to achieve optimal health, maintain wellness, cope with chronic health conditions, and complement treatments recommended by a trusted physician. The bill allows complementary care practitioners to operate legally in Wisconsin as long as they adhere to strict parameters that protect both the consumer and the practitioner.

“Wisconsinites are like people all over the United States. They see an enormous value in having access to this type of care that offers an opportunity to work on improving their health, or maybe even treat a chronic health condition, with more of a focus on natural remedies,” said Sen. Felzkowski.

The third bill allows for physicians who are licensed and in good standing in the U.S. or Canada to practice at a recreational and educational camp in Wisconsin during the summer without having to apply for a temporary physician's license. These camps are a critical part of the Northwoods' tourism infrastructure, and allowing these volunteers to avoid unnecessary red tape will help keep our camps safe throughout the season.

All three bills await action in the State Assembly before they can move forward to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

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