



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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March 29, 2006
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Van Roy Applauds Governor's Signature of Four Health Care Bills

MADISON – Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) announced that the Governor will sign four health care bills into law today. Van Roy, who coauthored three of the bills and supported all of them, said the legislation addresses the topics of health care insurance purchasing cooperatives, organ donation, and health care claims transparency.

“These bills address distinct parts of our health system, from insurance to organ donation for medical procedures, but each one plays an important role in improving health care in Wisconsin,” said Van Roy.

The bills signed included:

Co-op Care (AB 926):

AB 926, the Co-op Care Trailer bill, enables individuals, small businesses, farmers and others to purchase group health insurance coverage. Co-op Care allows individuals that have traditionally had a hard time getting affordable insurance to pool together and purchase insurance at lower rates. AB 926 is an innovative way to help uninsured and underinsured individuals enroll in affordable coverage.

“Co-op Care allows people who wouldn’t have been able to afford health care insurance before to have access to coverage,” said Van Roy. “It’s a smart, responsible way of helping more Wisconsin residents afford health insurance.”

Organ Donation (AB 830 and AB 659):

AB 830 creates requirements related to the removal of body parts for organ donation. The law will increase tissue donation in Wisconsin by making sure potential donors are not denied the opportunity to donate if the hospital’s tissue bank is unable to accept donations. The bill also formalizes the relationship between coroners and medical examiners and tissue banks and provides criteria to use during the tissue bank selection process.

AB 659 requires hospitals, organ procurement organizations, tissue banks, coroners or medical examiners requesting anatomical gifts from potential donors to provide opportunity for greater

input on the uses of the donated organs and tissue. By calling for spaces on organ donation forms to allow donors to specify limitations on their donations, the bill gives donors greater ethical control over how their donations are used.

“If there is anything we can do to streamline and improve the organ donation process, we should do it,” said Van Roy. “These two laws will help save the lives of many grateful patients.”

Claims Transparency (AB 907):

AB 907 authorizes the Department of Employee Trust Funds and the Department of Health and Family Services to contract with a data organization to collect, analyze and publicly report certain health care claims information. The bill also calls for the development of a central data base. The claims information in the database, from insurers and administrators, will provide greater transparency in and public knowledge of the health insurance system.

“The more transparent and widely understood our health care system is the better.,” said Van Roy. “This law will extend valuable information to consumers interested in learning more about health care claims.”

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