



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Assembly Passes VanderMeer's Physician Assistant Legislation**

**Madison** – Yesterday, during a floor session, the State Assembly passed [Assembly Bill 575](#), relating to the regulation of physician assistants. The bill is authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), and primarily helps to increase patient access to Physician Assistants by modifying the relationship between Physicians and Physician Assistants from a supervisory to collaborative model.

In addition, the legislation eliminates the currently existing 1 to 4, Physician to Physician Assistant ratio requirement which arbitrarily limits the number of Physician Assistants practicing in Wisconsin and creates gaps in care, especially in rural areas with fewer physicians.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement:

"I was especially pleased to be able to author this legislation and usher it through the legislative process. Any time you're working with a healthcare proposal that makes significant changes like this bill does, there are a lot of competing interests and stakeholders to work with. I think that what we came up with is a good compromise that achieves what the PAs were looking to change while still making sure to take into account some of the concerns that Physicians and their interest groups brought forward.

"Most importantly, this is a win for patients throughout the state and I think that is reflected in the unanimous vote we received in the Assembly Committee on Health last week. It's another thing that really hits close to home for me, because I know how important Physician Assistants are in the healthcare delivery continuum, stand alone, and especially in more sparsely populated communities in our state.

"I plan to see a floor vote on this in the Senate soon and hope we can get the governor's signature as well. I'm going to continue to vigorously pursue initiatives that increase access to care for residents of our state, especially for those of us that live in rural communities like those that make up the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District."

Numerous healthcare organizations and stakeholders offered input and feedback as the legislation moved through the committee process, including the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, and the Wisconsin Medical Society. Locally, Marshfield Clinic and Mayo Clinic have formally registered their support of the legislation.

The bills companion legislation, [Senate Bill 515](#), authored by Senator Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) passed out of the Senate Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rural Issues last week and is available for scheduling for a floor vote in the State Senate.

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*