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We Must Pay Our Therapists in Training

Madison – Today, Representative Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) introduced a bill that requires health insurance plans which cover mental health or behavioral health treatment or services provided by a qualified treatment trainee (QTT) to reimburse these providers at the same rate that is required for treatment or service under the Medical Assistance program. Representative Considine released the following statement:

“Our state needs more mental healthcare providers. We also need younger workers who are able to make Wisconsin their home. Many mental healthcare providers begin their careers as Qualified Treatment Trainees (QTTs). As a QTT, they receive supervision from an experienced therapist, see clients, and work 3,000 hours prior to taking a licensure exam and applying to be a fully licensed provider. During their time as a QTT, Wisconsin State Law does not require that they are reimbursed for their services unless they are seeing patients covered by Medical Assistance. New employees, all of whom have received advanced degrees, are not able to support themselves without being paid. This incentivizes new providers to leave our state.

“The bill I introduced today would ensure new mental health professionals want to come, and stay, in our state to provide healthcare. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation to make sure that all Wisconsinites have access to mental healthcare.”

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