



REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

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CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
608-266-2401

MAJORITY LEADER NELSON: LEGISLATION TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY, REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS SIGNED INTO LAW

KAUKAUNA – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) announced today that legislation to increase healthcare transparency and reduce costs was signed into law today.

“While Washington, D.C. continues to debate comprehensive healthcare reform, there are commonsense steps Wisconsin can take to reduce healthcare costs for middle class families,” said Representative Nelson. “Increasing healthcare transparency is one the ways we can accomplish that.”

AB 614 would increase healthcare transparency by allowing consumers to request a healthcare provider’s median charge for specific procedures. Consumers could also request a good faith estimate of their total out-of-pocket cost for a specified service. Representative Nelson scheduled an Assembly vote for AB 614 on March 2. The legislation was unanimously passed by the Assembly and Senate.

“By providing consumers with important cost and quality data, they will be able to easily compare costs at different providers and choose the best option, potentially saving them significant healthcare dollars,” said Representative Nelson. “This is yet another step Assembly Democrats have taken to help make healthcare more affordable and accessible for middle class families.”

In addition to increasing transparency, Assembly Democrats have worked to expand health insurance coverage to dependents until age 27 and prohibit insurance companies from using pre-existing conditions as an excuse to deny coverage. The Assembly also increased the quality of coverage by requiring insurance companies to cover treatments for children with autism and cochlear implants for children who are deaf.

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