



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **WAFP Applauds State Assembly on Passage of Direct Primary Care Bill**

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians applauds the Wisconsin State Assembly's passage of Assembly Bill 798 authored by Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin). The bill allows patients and physicians to enter into direct primary care agreements.

For a flat fee, patients have access to their doctor for a range of comprehensive primary care services over a specified period of time. Primary care services include regular checkups, preventive care, chronic disease management, care coordination, and urgent care.

"The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians commends Representative Sanfelippo and the State Assembly for exploring innovative opportunities to increase access to care," said WAFP President Dr. Ken Schellhase. "Direct primary care is a model for delivering and purchasing primary care services that gives physicians and their patients an alternative health care delivery method that strengthens the doctor/patient relationship."

In a direct primary care practice, patients have a personal relationship with their primary care physician, which diminishes the dependence on more expensive parts of the health care system, such as specialist care, urgent care, emergency rooms, and advanced imaging. According to the American Journal of Managed Care, individuals who receive direct primary care are 52% less likely to enter a hospital than patients with a traditional private practice.

Assembly Bill 798 still needs approval from the State Senate in order to be signed into law. At this time, the Senate has not scheduled the bill for a vote.

The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) is a statewide association of Family Medicine Physicians. With nearly 3,000 members, WAFP members provide continuing and comprehensive primary care health care for individuals and families. Its mission is to promote excellence in health care, increase access, and improve the health of the citizens of Wisconsin.

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