

## Wisconsin Dental Therapy Coalition

For Immediate Release

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### Wisconsin School Groups Back Bipartisan Oral Healthcare Fix

*Coalition grows to over 50 Groups Who Want  
Dental Therapists to Practice in State*

**Madison, WI**— In recent days, six statewide school associations joined dozens of other groups who want to see Wisconsin allow dental therapists practice to help alleviate the oral health crisis in Wisconsin. The [Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators](#), the [Wisconsin Association of School Nurses](#), the [Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials](#), the [Association of Wisconsin School Administrators](#), the [Wisconsin Association of School Personnel Administrators](#) and the [Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services](#) have joined in support of [Assembly Bill 81](#) and [Senate Bill 89](#).

Legislation by state Senator David Craig (R-Town of Vernon) and State Representative Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) would allow dental therapists, mid-level practitioners, similar to a physician's assistant in medicine, to practice in Wisconsin under the supervision of a dentist.

Dental therapists would provide increased access to quality dental care for Wisconsinites across the state. They can also provide both preventative and restorative treatments in community settings like schools and nursing homes.

In Wisconsin a staggering 64 of 72 counties face dental shortages, affecting 1.2 million Wisconsinites. While over 1 million residents depend on Medicaid for dental benefits, only 37% of Wisconsin dentists accept Medicaid, many citing low reimbursement rates as the chief concern. This plays a major role in why Wisconsin rates 45th of all states in the portion of Medicaid children who saw a dentist in 2017. The lower salaries of dental therapists can help practices serve more Medicaid patients.

Currently ten states have approved dental therapy programs, including one of the longest running programs, in Minnesota, and one of the more recently passed, in Michigan.



Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County



HEALTHCARE COOPERATIVE





COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



The Peer Association INC



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waukesha county COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC



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