



# John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Governor Evers Leaves Rural Wisconsin Behind with Veto

**Madison**--State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance released the following statement:

“It is ironic that on the eve of National Rural Health Day, Governor Evers vetoed a bill that would have had an immediate impact on rural health care in Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 76 would have reduced barriers for individuals seeking to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). CNAs are a critical component of Wisconsin’s health care system. Unfortunately, rural Wisconsin is facing a [shortage](#) of CNAs.”

Senate Bill 103/Assembly Bill 76 would have aligned Wisconsin’s CNA training requirements with the federal government’s requirements. Currently, Wisconsin requires individuals seeking to become a CNA to conduct twice as much training than the federal government requires. For border communities like Marinette, this presents a challenge to recruiting health care workers.

“If the federal requirements are good enough for other red and blue states, they should be good enough for Wisconsin,” said Rep. Nygren. “Even more concerning is that Gov. Evers’ veto will continue to make it more difficult for individuals to become CNAs in Wisconsin than Minnesota or Michigan. This hurts the quality of health care in Wisconsin.”

“Last session, in collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts, I authored bipartisan legislation aimed at bringing Wisconsin more line with national best practices regarding Substance Abuse Counselors (SAC),” said Rep. Nygren. “To help close the gaps in care, the bill helped ensure that the state’s SAC licensure process does not restrict qualified providers and that it instead aligns with surrounding state standards. This is a prime example of bipartisan work achieved by Governor Scott Walker aimed at expanding access to care.”

“I would like to thank the following groups for their continued support and passion on these important issues: *The Wisconsin Directors of Nursing Council, Wisconsin Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, Wisconsin Health Care Association/Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living, LeadingAge Wisconsin, Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, Disability Services Provider Network, and the Wisconsin Association of County Homes.*”

“I look forward to continuing to work with these groups to address rural Wisconsin’s health care needs.”

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