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Washington County Board Chairperson Respond to Governor Evers Veto

Assembly Bill 76 would have improved workforce shortage at Samaritan Campus

West Bend, WI – Yesterday, [Governor Tony Evers vetoed Assembly Bill 76](#), which would have federalized certified nursing assistant training requirements. The bill was supported by the Washington County Board of Supervisors as a way to improve nursing aid shortages at the Samaritan Campus skilled nursing facility.

County Board Chairperson Don Kriefall released the following statement:

We are disappointed with the governor's veto. Samaritan Campus skilled nursing facility is home to about 115 senior citizens. Many more seniors live in the Fields assisted living. This bill would have simply followed the standards set over thirty years ago by the federal government. It is the federal government that regulates skilled nursing.

About three-quarters of the Samaritan's residents are receiving Medicaid assistance. Our nursing home scores highly on state reviews. We would not have supported this bill if it would have caused our senior citizens to receive worse care. The care standards would not have changed under the bill.

In fact, the bill would have shortened the time it takes to get a new CNA hired and ready for on-the-job training. Every CNA Washington County employs receives robust training in addition to required course work. If Washington County could hire more CNAs, we could serve our residents better and more efficiently.

Nursing homes around the state are closing. Seniors are losing their homes. Samaritan Campus is going through a review to study the longevity of the aging facility. Now is the time to make running skilled nursing facility more efficient.

We disagree with the aging advocacy groups and nursing unions who deployed emotional scare tactics during this bill's legislative process. We are proud members of both parties voted for this bill in the Assembly and the bi-partisan voice vote in the Senate.

We encourage our legislators to explore a veto override or another bill to get qualified nursing aides serving our seniors sooner.

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