

**Testimony for Assembly Bill 270 | September 25, 2013**  
**Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing**  
**Rep. Amy Loudenbeck – AD31**

Thank you Chairman August and Committee members for holding a public hearing on AB 270.

Rep. Kolste has already provided a great summary of the bill. I do want to add that over sixty free clinics are operating in Wisconsin and that the bill has thirty six co-sponsors. Feedback to date on this bill from various stakeholders has been very positive. We are looking forward to your feedback and guidance today on the bill.

Since the bill was introduced, Representative Kolste and I have had the opportunity to review suggestions from the Department of Health Services and the Department of Administration and are in the process of drafting a substitute amendment.

After today's hearing and committee discussion and feedback, we will finalize the substitute amendment. We hope to introduce the substitute amendment by the end of this week, and I would like to outline the changes that we are already planning to make to the bill that you have before you today.

1. Limit the list of additional professionals to be covered under the bill to include a psychologist who is licensed under ch. 455, a social worker who holds a certificate granted under ch. 457, a marriage and family therapist who is licensed under ch. 457 or a professional counselor who is licensed under ch. 457, and an advanced practice nurse who has a certificate to issue prescription orders under s. 441.16 (2);
2. Require participating Voluntary Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP) clinics to research and validate provider credentials;
3. Require VHCPP clinics to enter providers into an online system developed by DOA;
4. Require VHCPP clinics to monitor providers and remove providers when warranted; and
5. Require VHCPP clinics to file an annual report to include types and number of services provided by clinics covered by VHCPP.

Beyond the aforementioned changes to be addressed in the substitute amendment, there has been discussion between the authors, DHS and DOA regarding agency oversight and financial responsibility related to the current VHCPP program. We have researched this issue with the assistance of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

It is our understanding that DOA administers the program reporting and provides medical malpractice insurance for the program as part of their risk management responsibilities under Chapter 16.865 – Department of Administration; statewide risk management coordination.

Under current law, DHS is responsible for paying the medical malpractice insurance premium and in the event of a claim the Attorney General would be responsible for providing legal counsel if directed by DHS under 165.25(6)(b).

It is important to note that under 893.82(6), the amount recoverable by any person or entity for any damages, injuries or death in any civil action or civil proceeding against a state officer, employee or agent, . . . shall not exceed \$250,000 and that no punitive damages may be allowed or recoverable in any such action. As mentioned already by Rep. Kolste, there have never been any claims paid under the current VHCPP program.

Finally, DOA and DHS have suggested that the substitute amendment include staffing and financial support for one FTE to manage the program. DOA and DHS have also recommended that we evaluate the possible transfer of the program to DHS. We have not yet incorporated these recommendations into the substitute amendment because it is unclear what level of staff may be needed to administer the program.

Thank you again for this opportunity and we would be happy to take questions from committee members.

## Statutory References:

### **16.865 Department of administration; statewide risk management coordination. The department shall:**

- (1) Be responsible for statewide risk management coordination in order to: (a) Protect the state from losses which are catastrophic in nature and minimize total cost to the state of all activities related to the control of accidental loss. (b) Place emphasis on the reduction of loss through professional attention to scientific loss control techniques and by motivational incentives, prompt claims payments and other loss prevention measures.
- (2) Identify and evaluate exposure to loss to the state, its employees or injury to the public by reason of fire or other accidents and fortuitous events at state-owned properties or facilities.
- (3) Recommend changes in procedures, program conditions or capital improvement for all agencies which would satisfactorily eliminate or reduce the existing exposure.
- (4) Manage the state employees' worker's compensation program and the statewide self-funded programs to protect the state from losses of and damage to state property and liability and, if retained by the department of workforce development under s. 102.65 (3), process, investigate, and pay claims under ss. 102.44 (1), 102.49, 102.59, and 102.66 as provided in s. 102.65 (3).
- (5) Arrange appropriate insurance contracts for the transfer of risk of loss on the part of the state or its employees, to the extent such loss cannot reasonably be assumed by the individual agencies or the self-funded programs. The placement of insurance may be by private negotiation rather than competitive bid, if such insurance has a restricted number of interested carriers. The department shall approve all insurance purchases.
- (6) Train, upgrade and guide appropriate personnel in the agencies in implementation of sound risk management practices.
- (7) Have the authority to contract for investigative and adjustment services as provided in s. 20.865 (1) (fm) which can be performed more economically or efficiently by such contract.
- (8) Annually in each fiscal year, allocate as a charge to each agency a proportionate share of the estimated costs attributable to programs administered by the agency to be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (2) (k). The department may charge premiums to agencies to finance costs under this subsection and pay the costs from the appropriation on an actual basis. The department shall deposit all collections under this subsection in the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (2) (k). Costs assessed under this subsection may include judgments, investigative and adjustment fees, data processing and staff support costs, program administration costs, litigation costs, and the cost of insurance contracts under sub. (5). In this subsection, "agency" means an office, department, independent agency, institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the courts, but not including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or in ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, or 279.

**NOTE:** Sub. (8) is shown as amended eff. 1-1-15 by 2013 Wis. Act 20. Prior to 1-1-15, as affected by 2011 Wis. Acts 10 and 229 and as merged by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (2) (i), it reads:

(8) Annually in each fiscal year, allocate as a charge to each agency a proportionate share of the estimated costs attributable to programs administered by the agency to be paid from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (2) (k). The department may charge premiums to agencies to finance costs under this subsection and pay the costs from the appropriation on an actual basis. The department shall deposit all collections under this subsection in the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (2) (k). Costs assessed under this subsection may include judgments, investigative and adjustment fees, data processing and staff support costs, program administration costs, litigation costs, and the cost of insurance contracts under sub. (5). In this subsection, "agency" means an office, department, independent agency, institution of higher education, association, society, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, that is entitled to expend moneys appropriated by law, including the legislature and the courts, but not including an authority created in subch. II of ch. 114 or subch. III of ch. 149 or in ch. 231, 232, 233, 234, 237, 238, or 279.

(9) Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the department makes any payment from the appropriation under s. 20.505 (2) (a), lapse to the general fund from the appropriation account under s. 20.505 (2) (k) an amount equal to the payment. The department shall effect the lapse required under this subsection in accordance with a schedule determined by the department, but the total amount of each lapse shall be effected no later than 6 years after the date of the payment to which it relates.

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**893.82 Claims against state employees; notice of claim; limitation of damages.**

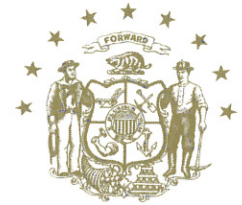
893.82(6) (6) The amount recoverable by any person or entity for any damages, injuries or death in any civil action or civil proceeding against a state officer, employee or agent, or against a nonprofit corporation operating a museum under a lease agreement with the state historical society, including any such action or proceeding based on contribution or indemnification, shall not exceed \$250,000. No punitive damages may be allowed or recoverable in any such action.

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**165.25 Duties of department of justice. The department of justice shall:**

(6) Attorney for state

165.25(6)(b) Volunteer health care providers who provide services under s. 146.89, practitioners who provide services under s. 257.03, and health care facilities on whose behalf services are provided under s. 257.03 are, for the provision of those services, covered by this section and shall be considered agents of the department of health services for purposes of determining which agency head may request the attorney general to appear and defend them.



## **Testimony for AB 270 – Expanding the Voluntary Health Care Provider Program**

### **Assembly Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing**

September 24, 2013

Thank you Chairman August and members of the Committee for giving Assembly Bill 270 a public hearing.

This bill expands the list of medical professionals who may provide health services at free clinics on a volunteer basis under medical malpractice insurance provided by the state.

Representative Loudenbeck and I worked together to produce this bill after extensive discussions with directors of free medical clinics, the Wisconsin Nursing Association, the Department of Health Services and Department of Administration.

Representative Loudenbeck and I both have free medical clinics in our districts, but free clinics operate in every region of the state, and all of them rely on medical professionals to donate their services.

Healthnet of Rock County and Open Arms Free Clinic of Walworth County are busy places and they will stay busy for the foreseeable future. The same goes for clinics in every corner of Wisconsin.

The free clinics save every one of us money, because people without insurance and no available free clinic will eventually show up in emergency rooms. Emergency room care is the most expensive, least effective medical care. Emergency rooms treat symptoms, not underlying causes. That means that many patients will show up in emergency rooms repeatedly.

The cost of that care is borne by all of us through increased insurance costs and higher hospital charges. Free medical clinics are more effective than emergency rooms and they absorb costs that would otherwise be paid by you and me.

The clinics also contribute to the health of the general public by helping prevent the spread of contagious disease. The savings in public health care dollars from this service can't be calculated, but it is enormous.

Free medical clinics would be more effective and more able to absorb patient loads if the Voluntary Health Care Provider list were expanded. The directors of our free clinics tell us that nurse practitioners with prescribing authority cannot practice at those clinics to the full scope of their licenses. The full services of these prescribing nurse practitioners are sorely needed to take some of the pressure off of physicians at the clinics.

These nurse practitioners are particularly crucial, but the bill expands the list to other medical providers as well.

I ardently hope that this committee approves this bill and that it becomes law. By expanding the list of available providers, we can expand the amount of health care that these heavily used free clinics can offer.

Under the current list, no liability claim has ever been paid by the state.

Expanding the list provides an effective way to save public health care dollars, help control health care costs, protect the public health and expand medical care to more of those with no other access.

Thank you again for this hearing. I would be happy to try to answer any questions.

Free Clinics							
Last Updated		5/31/2013					
Email Pungnou.Her@dhs.wisconsin.gov for updates							
Organization Name	Contact Person	Street Address	Phone #	Fax #	Special Info	E-Mail Address	Website
Albrecht Free Clinic (site #1)	Lynn Pasbrig, Emma Jacque	1110 Oak Street Suite 1200 West Bend, WI 53095	262-334-8339	262-306-7717	General Business Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9a.m. – 5p.m.  Hours of Clinic Operation Tuesdays: 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. EXISTING PATIENTS ONLY - Assistance with voucher pick-ups and PAP paperwork 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. WALK-IN* Wednesdays: 8:45a.m. - 2:30p.m. APPOINTMENTS ONLY Thursdays: 4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. EXISTING PATIENTS ONLY - Assistance with voucher pick-ups and PAP paperwork 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. WALK-IN* <i>*Registration must be completed by 7:30p.m.</i>		<a href="http://www.albrechtfreeclinic.org/">http://www.albrechtfreeclinic.org/</a>
American Community Medical Center, Inc.	Mahmud Safavi	1421 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53703	608-441-6888 (Leave Message) 608-957-3000		Tue - Sat: By Appointment Sun: Closed If it is an emergency, please call 911 immediately.		<a href="http://www.acmedicalcenters.org/">http://www.acmedicalcenters.org/</a>
Asthma Clinic	Ann Schlimgen	4633 D Verona Rd (in Madison Plaza) Madison, WI 53711	608.446.3344		Tuesdays 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<a href="mailto:ann.schlimgen@deancare.com">ann.schlimgen@deancare.com</a>	<a href="mailto:deanfoundation@deancare.com">deanfoundation@deancare.com</a>
BSP Free Clinic	Kathy Williams	2711 Allen Blvd, Lower Level Middleton, WI 53562	608-827-2308	608-827-2344	Wednesdays & Thursdays 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM by appointment only	<a href="mailto:kathleen.williams@deancare.com">kathleen.williams@deancare.com</a>	<a href="mailto:deanfoundation@deancare.com">deanfoundation@deancare.com</a>
Bread of Healing at Cross Lutheran Church	Rick Cesar	1821 N. 16th Street Milwaukee, WI 53205	414-977-0001	414-755-6971	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:bread_of_healing@yahoo.com">bread_of_healing@yahoo.com</a>	
Bread of Healing (BOH) Agape Community Center		6100 N 42nd Street Milwaukee, WI			Call for hours.		
City on a Hill Clinic	Karrol Mirenda, RN	2224 W. Kilbourn Ave Milwaukee, WI 53233	414-931-6670	414-931-1804	Second Saturday of each month from 12:00 - 3:30. Offering monthly BP and BS screenings, foot care and health education topics and limited physician visits to the uninsured. Cholesterol Screening 2-3 times per year. Vision screening every other month starting with January. Physical Therapy every other month starting with February. Lunch and food pantry available to participants in health screenings.	<a href="mailto:ddelasantos@cityonahillmilwaukee.org">ddelasantos@cityonahillmilwaukee.org</a>	
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic	Executive Director, Maribeth Woodford Clinic Director, Teddi Martin	836 Richard Drive, Eau Claire, WI 54701	715-839-8477	715-839-8521	Open Tuesdays and Thursdays only, offering walk-in services, mental health, diabetic, ophthalmologic, and foot clinics	<a href="mailto:Maribeth@cvfreeclinic.org">Maribeth@cvfreeclinic.org</a>	
Church Health Services, Inc. Beaver Dam		308 Oneida St. Beaver Dam, WI 53916	920-887-1766	920-887-2322	Patient Application Process and patients are seen by appointment only	<a href="mailto:info@churchclinic.org">info@churchclinic.org</a> <a href="mailto:stacyn@churchclinic.org">stacyn@churchclinic.org</a>	
Church Health Services, Inc. Mayville	Heidi Weiss, RN	16 S. Main St., Mayville, WI 53050	920-387-2995	920-887-2322		<a href="mailto:info@churchclinic.org">info@churchclinic.org</a> <a href="mailto:HeidiW@churchclinic.org">HeidiW@churchclinic.org</a>	
Community Clinic of Door County	Laura Moeller, PhD, MA Executive Director	1623 Rhode Island St, POB 3 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235	920-746-8989	920-746-8960	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:laura@communityclinicofdoorcounty.org">laura@communityclinicofdoorcounty.org</a>	

Organization Name	Contact Person	Street Address	Phone #	Fax #	Special Info	E-Mail Address	Website
Community Connections Free Clinic	Aaron A. Dunn, MD, Therese Hess	101 E. Fountain Street P. O. Box 184 Dodgeville, WI 53533	608-930-2232	608 935-5168	Hours are 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, except holidays.	<a href="mailto:info@ccfcdodge.org">info@ccfcdodge.org</a>	
Community Chronic Disease Management Clinic (CCDM)	Heather Puente	205 E. Concordia Milwaukee 53212	414-588-9178	414-270-4806	CCDM screens and manages the care of hypertension and non-insulin dependent diabetes		
Community Outreach Health Clinic	Linda Smith, NP	W180N8085 Town Hall Rd Menomonee Falls, WI 53051	262-257-3394	262-253-7162	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:linda.smith@froedterthealth.org">linda.smith@froedterthealth.org</a>	
Dental Clinic – Waukesha	Teri Terrill	10565 Lawndale Dr. Cedarburg, WI 53012	262-546-0613		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:ttconsult@mindspring.com">ttconsult@mindspring.com</a>	
Free Clinic of the Greater Menomonee Area, Inc.	Cindy Ritchie, Dennis Ciesielski	2321 Stout Rd. Menomonee, WI 54751	715-308-3808 715-231-2710	715-233-7860	Red Cedar Medical Center, Level A. Clinic hours are Tuesday only, registration between 5:00 and 7:00 PM.	<a href="mailto:Ritchie.Cindy@mayo.edu">Ritchie.Cindy@mayo.edu</a> <a href="mailto:daciesie@gmail.com">daciesie@gmail.com</a>	
Free Clinic of Pierce St. Croix Counties	Mary Steelen, Mary Conroy-Johnson	1687 E. Division St. P.O. Box 745 River Falls, WI 54022	715-307-3948		Open on Tuesday evenings. Registration begins at 4:15 PM. No appointments.	<a href="mailto:mconroy@sbcglobal.net">mconroy@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:marvr.steele@att.net">marvr.steele@att.net</a>	<a href="http://www.freeclinicpiercestcroix.org">www.freeclinicpiercestcroix.org</a>
Good Neighbor Clinic	Joan Mack, RN	1906 North Street Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	608-643-4749 608-644-0504		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:gncrc@gmail.com">gncrc@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.goodneighborclinic.org">www.goodneighborclinic.org</a>
Granville Neighborhood Health Center	Melissa Wolfram, Rebekah Carey	9550 W Brown Deer Road Milwaukee, WI 53224	262 385-5138		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:granvillehealthcenter@gmail.com">granvillehealthcenter@gmail.com</a>	
Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic	Kathleen Schneider	9330 W. Lincoln Ave West Allis, WI 53227	414-546-3733 414-546-3746		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:schneidg98@yahoo.com">schneidg98@yahoo.com</a>	
Health Care Network, Inc.	Barb Tylenda	904 State St. Racine, WI 53404	262-632-2400	262-632-7988	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:barbtylenda@tds.net">barbtylenda@tds.net</a>	
HealthNet of Rock County Inc.	Jean Randles	23 W. Milwaukee St. Janesville, WI 53548	608-314-1921	608-756-4928	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:executive-director@healthnet-rock.org">executive-director@healthnet-rock.org</a>	<a href="http://healthnet-rock.org">healthnet-rock.org</a>
Huiras Ozaukee Community Health Clinic	Sharon Streff, Katie Crass, Mary Schneider	13111 N. Port Washington Rd Mequon, WI 53097	262-243-7533	262-243-7319	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:sstreff@columbia-stmarys.org">sstreff@columbia-stmarys.org</a> <a href="mailto:mschnei1@columbia-stmarys.org">mschnei1@columbia-stmarys.org</a>	
InHealth Community Wellness Clinic	Robin Tranzo	109 East Bluff Street Boscobel, Wisconsin 53805	608-375-4324		Serving Grant and Crawford Counties - Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:pertranzo@mchsi.com">pertranzo@mchsi.com</a>	
La Clinica Family Health and Dental	Nancy Pulver	400 S Town Line Rd Wautoma, WI 54982	920-787-5514		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:nancy@famhealth.com">nancy@famhealth.com</a>	
Lake Area Free Clinic	Paul Baumgartner	856 B Armour Rd Oconomowoc, WI 53066	262-569-4990	262-569-1712	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:maryreich@lakeareafreeclinic.org">maryreich@lakeareafreeclinic.org</a>	
Liberty Star Medical	David B. Gattuso, MD	1905 Center Avenue Suite #5 Janesville, WI 53546	608-563-4213	866-998-1030	Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	<a href="mailto:doc@libertystarmedical.com">doc@libertystarmedical.com</a>	<a href="http://www.libertystarmedical.com/">http://www.libertystarmedical.com/</a>
Living Healthy Community Clinic	Linda Booker	510 Doctors Court Oshkosh, WI 54901	920-424-1242	920-424-2045	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:whitman@uwosh.edu">whitman@uwosh.edu</a>	
Marquette Clinic for Women & Children	Linda Booker	1821 N 16 <sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53205	414-755-6970	414-755-6970	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:marvann.lough@marquette.edu">marvann.lough@marquette.edu</a>	
MCW-Issac Coggs Saturday Clinic	Adam Ronan, Co-Director	2770 North 5 <sup>th</sup> St Milwaukee, WI 53212			Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:adamronan@hotmail.com">adamronan@hotmail.com</a>	
MEDIC	Sharon Younkin	2202 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713	608-265-4972		Open Saturdays only. Doors open at 8 am, first come first served. First appt. at 9 am	<a href="mailto:medic@med.wisc.edu">medic@med.wisc.edu</a>	
NEW Community Clinic	Bonnie Kuhr	622 Bodart St. Green Bay, WI 54301	920-437-9773	920-437-0984	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:newcomm@netnet.net">newcomm@netnet.net</a>	
Open Arms Free Clinic		797 East Geneva St, Elkhorn, WI 53121	262-379-1401	262-379-1095	Every Thursday 2 PM - 7 PM		<a href="http://www.openarmsfreeclinic.org">www.openarmsfreeclinic.org</a>
Open Door Free Clinic-Unity Church	Georgia Seis	1025 E. Oklahoma Ave Milwaukee, WI 53207	414 481-1778	414 481-1778	Call for hours. Mailings: 3965 S. Lake Dr c/o Georgia Seis St Francis, WI 53235	<a href="mailto:gaseis@merr.com">gaseis@merr.com</a>	



Organization Name	Contact Person	Street Address	Phone #	Fax #	Special Info	E-Mail Address	Website
Our Lady of Hope Clinic	Dr. Michael Kloess	6425 Odana Road, Madison, WI 53719	608-819-8544	608-819-8547	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:drmike@ourladvofhopeclinic.org">drmike@ourladvofhopeclinic.org</a>	See <a href="http://ourladvofhopeclinic.org/">http://ourladvofhopeclinic.org/</a> for more information
Packard Avenue Community Clinic	Ed Wrench	5854 S. Packard Ave Cudahy, WI 53110	414-882-2392	414-769-2291	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:wrenche@ci.cudahy.wi.us">wrenche@ci.cudahy.wi.us</a>	
Repairers of the Breach	Debbie Minsky-Kelley	1335 W Vliet St Milwaukee 53205	414-342-1065	414-344-9407	Hours vary week to week. Call first.	<a href="mailto:mc.repairers5812@sbcglobal.net">mc.repairers5812@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Richland Community Free Clinic	Gloria Basset	301 E. 2nd St, Richland Center, WI 53581	608 647-6161 x4135		Open tuesdays 8 - noon for those without insurance.	<a href="mailto:Nicole.Mccormick@richlandmedcenter.com">Nicole.Mccormick@richlandmedcenter.com</a>	<a href="http://www.rcfreeclinic.com/">http://www.rcfreeclinic.com/</a>
Rice Lake Area Free Clinic	Sandy Krautkramer	1035 N. Main Street, Suite G02 Rice Lake, WI 54868	715-736-3733 (736-FREE)	715-736-3734	We are open for patient care on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Our doors open at 5 PM, providers start patient visits at 6 PM and we close at 9 PM.	<a href="mailto:ClinicDirector@rlafc.org">ClinicDirector@rlafc.org</a>	<a href="http://rlafc.org/">http://rlafc.org/</a>
Rock River Free Clinic	Gail Scott, RN	1541 Annex Road Jefferson, WI 53549	920-674-7442	920-674-7460	Hours of Service: Monday 10 AM - 7 PM Tuesday 9 AM - 12 PM Wednesday 9 AM - 6 PM Thursday 10 AM - 7 PM Friday 9 AM - 5PM	<a href="mailto:gails@jeffersoncountywi.gov">gails@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a>	
Salvation Army Clinic	Nancy Szudzik	1730 N. 7 <sup>th</sup> St. Milwaukee, WI 53205	414-265-6360	414-265-8151	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:nancy_szudzik@usc.salvationarmy.org">nancy_szudzik@usc.salvationarmy.org</a>	
Red Shield Free Clinic	Pam Sandee	710 Pennsylvania Ave Sheboygan, WI 53082	920-458-3723	920-694-0035	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:pam_sandee@usc.salvationarmy.org">pam_sandee@usc.salvationarmy.org</a>	
Samaritan Health Clinic- Fond du Lac		430 E. Division Fond du Lac, WI 54935	920-926-4841	920-926-8874	Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<a href="mailto:samaritan@agnesian.com">samaritan@agnesian.com</a>	
Samaritan Health Clinic- Waupun	Linda Nickel	620 W. Brown St Waupun, WI 53963	920-324-6540		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:samaritan@agnesian.com">samaritan@agnesian.com</a>	
Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured	Jim Sanders, MD	1121 E. North Ave Milwaukee, WI	414-588-2865		Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:sfcbboard@ncw.edu">sfcbboard@ncw.edu</a>	
Seton Dental Clinic	Liz Nelson	1730 S. 13th Street, Milwaukee	414-383-3220	414-383-3363	Urgent Care is available to people on a walk-in basis according to eligibility criteria. Call for criteria.	<a href="mailto:enelson1@columbia-stmarys.org">enelson1@columbia-stmarys.org</a>	
St. Clare Health Mission	Sandy Brekke	916 Ferry St. LaCrosse, WI 54601	608-791-9544	608-791-9570	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:brekke.sandra@mayo.edu">brekke.sandra@mayo.edu</a>	
St. Clare Health Mission of Sparta	Patricia Rafferty, DO	310 W. Main St. Sparta, WI 54656	608-269-1770	608-269-1017	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:rafferty.patricia@mayo.edu">rafferty.patricia@mayo.edu</a>	
St. Francis Community Clinic		1965 Oshkosh Ave Oshkosh, WI 54902	920-230-2273	920-231-2502	Call for hours.		
St. Joseph's Medical Clinic	Peggy Brown, RN	826 N. East Ave Waukesha, WI 53186	262-544-6777	262-544-6667	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:peggyb@simdc.net">peggyb@simdc.net</a>	<a href="http://www.simdc.net">www.simdc.net</a>
St. Vincent de Paul Free Clinic	Christy O'Dea	1004 E. Main St. Merrill, WI 54452	715-539-9566	715-539-9606	Call for hours.		
The Good Neighbor Clinic of Sauk Prairie	H.P. Carlson, MD Stefani Moreno	1906 North St. Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	608-643-4749 ext 14	608-644-0504	Call for hours.		<a href="http://www.goodneighborclinic.org">www.goodneighborclinic.org</a>
The Open Door Clinic, Inc.	Dr Tom Chisholm, MD, Mary Meyers	Site: 130 West Central Street Chippewa Falls, WI	715-720-1443	715 720-4656	Open Tuesdays 4 - 8 pm  Mailing address: PO Box 271 Chippewa Falls 54729	<a href="mailto:mary@chippewaopendoor.org">mary@chippewaopendoor.org</a>	
Twin Counties Free Clinic	Candy Sheridan	1301 Cheri Boulevard Suite 116 Marinette, WI 54143	715-732-1349	715-732-1386	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:tcfc@banc.org">tcfc@banc.org</a>	
Walker's Point Community Clinic	Steve Ohly	611 W. National Ave. #400 Milwaukee, WI 53204	(414) 384-1400	414-672-7012	Call for hours.	<a href="mailto:steve.ohly@aurora.org">steve.ohly@aurora.org</a>	
Watertown Area Cares Clinic	Roberta Manley, Carol Mertins, John Basarich	415 S. 8 <sup>th</sup> St Watertown, WI 53094	920-206-7797		Call for hours.		
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# **HealthNet of Rock County, Inc.**

23 W. Milwaukee Street \* Janesville, WI \* 53548

Phone: 608-756-4638 \* Fax: 608-756-4928

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**146.89 (1)(r) 5. To 13. And 146.89 (5)**

## **Statement of Need – Volunteer Health Care Provider Program Revisions**

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP) is an invaluable resource for clinics that provide free care to patients across Wisconsin. HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. is a free clinic serving low income, uninsured residents of Rock County. Last year we had over 9,000 patient visits to our medical and dental clinics and the need continues to grow. All of our medical and dental providers donate their time as we have a limited budget to pay for staff such as nurses and dental assistants, so we also rely heavily on volunteer support staff as well. Without volunteer medical professionals, we would not be able to serve the 900 enrolled patients that seek services at our clinic throughout the year as 97% of all funding we receive goes back in to patient care, meaning only 3% of our funding is used to pay for staff and overhead costs. The VHCPP allows us to recruit medical professionals by allowing licensed individuals to serve at our clinic and not be required to purchase personal malpractice insurance to do so. This is especially important for professionals that are retired but still want to keep their license active or individuals that have liability coverage that is only valid through their place of employment but want to give back to their community through volunteering.

The current program recognizes 14 licensed professions and one unlicensed medical profession as covered entities. The proposed revision would expand the number to include additional licensed medical professionals in the state to serve at free clinics. Expanding this program allows us to tap into these community resources and in return allow for more uninsured / low-income patients to be served, hence keeping patients out of emergency rooms and reducing the burden to current county resources. The more professionals that can be included on this bill the better as it allows us to continue expanding services and serving more individuals that need us the most. Additionally, the revision will clarify the role of advanced practice nurses with prescribing authority to practice up to their license at free clinics and ultimately further expanding services offered at free clinics. Currently under the legislation, advanced practice nurses may not prescribe at free clinics as this is not a covered duty under the VHCPP, though they are licensed in the state as well as overseen by the DEA to do so in private practice.

These revisions will have an incredible impact on our clinic. We currently have 31 medical providers as well as countless support staff serving in pharmacist, pharmacy technician, and nursing roles that generously donate their time; however we are still scheduling appointments well into January 2014. These proposed revisions will allow us to tap into more medical professionals that may have stayed away for concern over liability coverage and increase the number of appointment slots available to our patients. We would also be able to expand our available services with the addition of critical mental health and advocate roles that social workers, therapists, and counselors bring to the table.

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program is our most valuable resource at our clinic as well as the other free clinics across the state of Wisconsin. It provides peace of mind to the providers that serve so they can focus on providing patients the best care possible.

*Presented by; Ryan Messinger, HealthNet Clinical Operations Director 9/25/2013*

# **HealthNet of Rock County, Inc.**

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September 25, 2013

My name is Rochelle Carlson, and I am a Nurse Practitioner. I have been an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber in the State of Wisconsin since 1998. I work full time and commute 2 hours a day. I also volunteer my time as a Nurse Practitioner at HealthNet and have done so for the last two and a half years. I see patients at HealthNet about one evening a month. Usually I will see around five patients during an evening when I am there.

One might ask, is it worth it? Is it worth my time in an otherwise busy schedule to volunteer? Do I really make a difference when I see around 60 patients in a year? The answer is yes! It is worth my time precisely because I believe that I do make a difference.

During my volunteer service at HealthNet I have successfully treated patients with chronic illnesses such as Diabetes, Hypertension, and Depression. I know this because blood pressures have lowered to an acceptable level, blood sugars have become controlled, and patients' moods have improved. Management of chronic illnesses lowers the risk that patients will end up in an Emergency Room with a catastrophic event such as a stroke, a gangrenous foot requiring an amputation, or an anoxic brain injury from a suicide attempt.

As a provider I need to make the most out of every patient visit since unpredictable transportation and clinic access are barriers to return appointments. Anticipating patients' needs and working with efficiency requires me to practice to the full extent of my license as an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber. Right now the Volunteer Health Care Providers law restricts my ability to practice as the licensed independent provider that I am due to the malpractice limitations. I believe that more Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers would be willing to volunteer if they did not have the deterrents of either a limited practice or paying for malpractice insurance to volunteer.

HealthNet patients appreciate me as their provider and will request to see me. They will even wait for a clinic appointment to see me rather than being seen sooner by one of the physicians. I have gained their trust as a Nurse Practitioner. I know that I am not unique in the care that I provide. In my work I supervise other nurse practitioners, and I daily hear of nurse practitioners who make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Please support the creation of 146.89 (1) (r) 5. to 13. and 146.89 (5) of the statutes: relating to : additional providers in the volunteer health care provider program and proof of financial responsibility and malpractice requirements for certain advanced practice nurses serving as volunteer health care providers. I believe this bill will encourage other Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers to volunteer their services, and they will provide needed healthcare to medically underserved individuals in the State of Wisconsin. You can make a difference by voting in support for this bill.



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TO: Representative Tyler August, Chairperson and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing  
FROM: Gina Dennik-Champion, MSN, RN, MSHA  
Wisconsin Nurses Association Executive Director  
DATE: September 25, 2013  
RE: Support of Assembly Bill 270 - Relating to: additional providers in the volunteer health care provider program and proof of financial responsibility and malpractice insurance requirements for certain advanced practice nurses serving as volunteer health care providers

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On behalf of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA), I would like to thank Chairperson August and Members of the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing for holding a public hearing on AB 270. This bill provides for the inclusion of additional volunteer health care providers into the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program as described in Wisconsin State Statute 146.89 (1) (r).

My name is Gina Dennik-Champion. I am a registered nurse and serve as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA). WNA is the professional association for Wisconsin's 80,000 registered nurses including advanced practice registered nurses. WNA advocates for access to comprehensive quality health care services for all people.

WNA supports AB 270, as it includes advanced practice nurse prescribers (APNPs), which are identified in Section 1 on page 3, lines 1-2, and Section 2, page 3, lines 12 – 18. APNPs are professional nurses licensed as registered nurses who are educated at the graduate degree level. The APNP's scope of services provided includes:

- comprehensive health history
- advanced physical assessment
- the selection and performance of appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- ordering and interpretation of laboratory tests
- diagnosis of clinical conditions
- prescription of and administration of pharmacological agents, treatments and nonpharmacologic therapies
- provision of education and counseling for individuals, families and groups
- consulting with other health care professionals and/or making appropriate referrals for patients and families
- serving as the primary provider of record

In order to for an APNP to prescribe a drug, order radiographic and laboratory tests and procedures, and durable medical equipment, she or he must meet the conditions identified in Wisconsin State Statute 441.16 and Administrative Code for Nurses N.8. One of the requirements to practice as an APNP is to maintain malpractice insurance, currently \$1 million/\$3 million. Most employers pay the malpractice

insurance for the APNP. However, coverage cannot extend beyond the work setting. For an APNP to serve as a volunteer in a "free clinic" she or he must purchase a separate malpractice insurance policy. This is not always desirable and deters APNPs from providing care in these free clinic settings.

AB 270 removes the requirement for the APNP to maintain malpractice insurance and provides for the Department of Administration to address any legal claims filed.

It is for these reasons WNA supports AB 270. This legislation is very timely given the increased demand for health services among the uninsured. APNPs are one more category of providers that can support the health care needs of those patients entering the free clinic setting.

On behalf of WNA, I want thank you Chairperson August for holding this hearing and Representative Laudenbeck for sponsoring this bill. WNA respectfully requests the Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing support AB 270 and vote its passage out of Committee.