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# JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## **Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 870** *Assembly Committee on Health* January 25, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members for holding this public hearing today and giving me the opportunity to speak to you in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 870. I would like to thank Senator Petrowski for working with me on this important legislation.

There is nothing quite like a Wisconsin summer. Our many lakes, streams, and forests allow our state to offer some of the best outdoor recreational opportunities in the world and make Wisconsin a great place to spend a week or two away at camp. Kids come from all around the nation to attend summer camps in Wisconsin. These camps are located in all corners of the state and are an important part of the state and local economy.

Recreational activities carry the risk of injury and camp activities are no exception. Many summer camps rely on volunteer doctors who give a week or two of their summer to serve as a camp doctor. Camp doctors ensure the safety of both campers and staff. While the vast majority of injuries treated by a camp doctor are minor (i.e. rashes, twisted ankles), having a doctor on hand provides an extra level of care that should be encouraged.

Many physicians who volunteer as a camp doctor are licensed in another state. Current law requires these very capable doctors to obtain a temporary license from the State of Wisconsin even if they are only volunteering for one week. Many of the requirements to receive this temporary licensure are very time consuming and camps are finding it harder to find physicians who are willing to go through this lengthy process just to volunteer for a week or two. Some camp doctors have said that it is more work to obtain the temporary license than to work at the camp itself.

AB 870 seeks to solve this problem by allowing a physician licensed in another state or territory of the United States or a foreign country or province to practice at a camp in Wisconsin for up to 20 working days in a year. To qualify for this exemption, the licensure standards where the physician is licensed must be substantially equivalent to those in Wisconsin. Also, a physician operating under this exemption would only be permitted to treat campers and staff.

At the request of the Department of Safety and Professional Services, we plan to offer a simple amendment to the bill. The amendment would require a physician to notify the state that they plan to work in Wisconsin under this exemption.

Mr. Chairman and members, I ask for your support of AB 870 and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Thursday January 25, 2018  
Assembly Committee on Health  
Hearing on AB 870  
Regarding the Temporary Practice by Physicians at Camps

Mary Fried  
Owner & Director,  
Camp Agawak  
www.agawak.com  
(715) 356-5383

Thank you for your time today. My name is Mary Fried and I am the owner and director of Camp Agawak for Girls, in Minocqua established in 1921. I've been the owner and director of Agawak for 30 years. We service over 200 plus campers and a staff of 125 daily during the summer. My camp is not just a camp. It's a second home to our campers and staff. You may not be aware but there are more than 200 hundred various camps in Wisconsin serving our youth.

Many camps in Wisconsin rely on volunteer doctors who provide common medical care for campers and staff. The current process for camp doctors to become licensed in Wisconsin compared to Minnesota law is so very lengthy and time consuming. Because of this, doctors don't want to hassle with all the paper work and the time commitment involved to obtain the license. This causes a true shortage of camp doctors and jeopardizes the overall health of campers and staff.

We need assembly bill 870 to pass which will make the process easier for camp doctors who want to volunteer in Wisconsin camps. All of us want to keep our youth safe and healthy and passing assembly bill 870 will certainly allow us to do so while they attend summer camp.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thursday January 25, 2018  
Committee on Health  
Hearing on AB 870 Relating to Temporary Practice by Physicians at Camps

Statement regarding Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services:  
COMPLETING APPLICATION FOR CAMP PHYSICIAN LICENSE

Jason Canel MD FAAP  
Attending Physician, NorthShore University HealthSystem  
Senior Clinician Educator, Pritzker School of Medicine  
1435 Waukegan Road  
Glenview IL 60025  
office: 847 832-6500

I am a Fellow of the American Board of Pediatrics and a full time pediatric attending physician at NorthShore University HealthSystem as well as a Senior Clinician Educator, Pritzker School of Medicine in Chicago land. I have had a full time license in Illinois and also maintain a full time license in Wisconsin. I have volunteered for many years as a camp doctor in a Northern Wisconsin camp for approximately week long rotations at a time. I have enjoyed the beauty of Wisconsin and watching the growth and development of children from Wisconsin as well as children from across the US and the world, including my own. I hope that I have added to the safety of the camp experience, the education of the camp nurses and allowed parents of campers from Wisconsin and the broader world peace of mind that their children are being cared for well. I decided to obtain and maintain a full time license in Wisconsin because the timing, time burden and hassle to obtain a temporary camp doctor license was nearly as laborious as a permanent one and would not require annual re-application.

The first time I did this there was an examination process for both camp doc and full time license as well as all requirements similar to today including things such as obtaining a National Practitioner Data Bank Report, Physician Data Center Profile from the Federation of State Medical Boards, Malpractice Suits or Claims, Convictions and Pending Charges, and a Physician Profile Data Report from the American Medical Association (AMA). It turns out that my state from my perspective requires identical types of information for me to obtain and maintain my permanent license. If I were a visiting camp doctor from Wisconsin in Illinois I believe my application would be satisfied by a much lower burden of only providing my full time certificate of licensure in Wisconsin, a curriculum vitae, certificate of invitation from the camp and an application fee.

Putting time and hassle aside, just looking at what has to be done in Wisconsin currently is enough to scare the faint of heart away from the process. I am fully aware of the mission and legislative mandate to provide consumer protection for Wisconsin residence but in my opinion the greater burden of temporary licensure that Wisconsin places on the applicants causes many potential qualified candidates to decide that they do not wish to volunteer their time and puts Wisconsin camps and their directors in a position of not being able to fill spots or choosing

applicants that satisfy certificate requirements but are not the best holistic fit for the camp experience or maintain a specialty in medicine that, although meets requirements, does not meet the needs of the children as a larger applicant pool that would exist under a less burdensome process would allow. I speculate that the number of candidates that meet Illinois full time license requirements that do not meet Wisconsin visiting camp doctor requirements that would be rejected in the current more thorough Wisconsin process would not be worth the tradeoff of a system that decreased the quantity of quality camp doctor volunteer pool of applicants that are desired to keep Wisconsin campers as safe as possible.

I do appreciate your time and attention,

Thursday January 25, 2018  
Committee on Health  
Hearing on AB 870 Relating to Temporary Practice by Physicians at Camps

Thank you my Chairman, my name is Gabe Chernov and I am the owner and director of Birch Trail, a summer camp for children in Minong, WI.

We (like many camps in Wisconsin) rely on volunteer doctors to work with other medical professionals to help keep our campers & staff healthy and safe. Unfortunately, the current process for camp doctors to become licensed in our state is a barrier for many. With excessive paperwork & testing, the process can often take up to 6 months. Minnesota, a state having a summer camp heritage similar to Wisconsin, has a much simpler process for camp doctor licensure that has served Minnesota campers and camps safely and effectively.

We need this bill because the current law makes it difficult and very time consuming for volunteer doctors to obtain a Wisconsin license. Most of these doctors spend 1 week at camp and our fear is that more doctors will stop volunteering because of the difficulty in obtaining a license.

The safety and care of our campers is our main priority and having an easier path for volunteer doctors to care for our children would help us keep our campers and staff healthy and safe.

Thank you for your time and for helping to keep our campers and staff safe,"



**NORTH STAR CAMP  
FOR BOYS**  
EST. 1945

January 25, 2018

Representative Joe Sanfelippo  
The Committee on Health  
In Support of Assembly Bill 870

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Andy Shlensky and I am the owner and director of North Star Camp for Boys in Hayward, Wisconsin. This summer will be North Star's 74th summer in operation and we are anticipating campers and staff to travel to Hayward from over 25 states and 15 countries to enjoy the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

Many camps like ours rely on volunteer doctors to oversee the health and wellness of our camp community. With many of these doctors traveling in from out of state, their options for obtaining a license do not seem to fit the situation. The requirements of the temporary license, including the paperwork and examination process, has proven it can take up to six months. They also have the option of obtaining a permanent Wisconsin license, which involves almost the same process as the temporary one, but requires as many hours of continuing education than the hours that they are practicing in their one week of volunteering. These hurdles have caused us to have a shortage of doctors willing and able to volunteer at camp.

With each of these physicians licensed in their own state and subject to the standards of continuing education and updated background checks, I ask for your support of Assembly Bill 870 to help keep our campers safe. This would bring Wisconsin in line with other states like Minnesota and Maine who also have rich traditions in camping in streamlining the licensing process.

Though we're mostly treating jammed fingers and skinned knees, having a doctor at camp allows us to provide our campers and staff with the optimal level of medical supervision during their campers and staff. Thank you for your support in reforming this process to help keep our campers safe.

Thank you,



Andy Shlensky



# Assembly Bill 870: Wisconsin Summer Camp Doctor Licensing

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January 25, 2018

Representative Joe Sanfelippo  
The Committee on Health  
In Support of Assembly Bill 870

Mr. Chairman,

I have been a camp doctor at North Star Camp for Boys in Hayward, Wisconsin for over twenty years. I volunteer one week of my time to contribute to the overall healthcare of the campers and staff. My role is mostly that of triage and support for the full-time healthcare team at the camp. I am a licensed physician in Minnesota and my need to maintain a full or temporary license in Wisconsin is onerous. I know this restricts other physicians from volunteering their time as camp doctors in Wisconsin. I firmly believe that if Wisconsin were to pass legislation similar to that of Minnesota for camp doctor licensure, more physicians would fill that role. This, in turn, would improve the overall healthcare for countless campers and staff.

William N. Lisberg, MD

*Thank you for your time today. My name is Mary Fried and I am the owner and director of Camp Agawak for Girls, in Minocqua established in 1921. I've been the owner and director of Agawak for 30 years. We service over 200 plus campers and a staff of 125 daily during the summer. My camp is not just a camp. It's a second home to our campers and staff. You may not be aware but there are more than 200 hundred various camps in Wisconsin serving our youth.*

*Many camps in Wisconsin rely on volunteer doctors who provide common medical care for campers and staff. The current process for camp doctors to become licensed in Wisconsin compared to Minnesota law is so very lengthy and time consuming. Because of this, doctors don't want to hassle with all the paper work and the time commitment involved to obtain the license. This causes a true shortage of camp doctors and jeopardizes the overall health of campers and staff.*

**We need assembly bill 870 to pass which will make the process easier for camp doctors who want to volunteer in Wisconsin camps. All of us want to keep our youth safe and healthy and passing assembly bill 870 will certainly allow us to do so while they attend summer camp.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Mary Fried**

**Owner & Director, Camp Agawak**

**[www.agawak.com](http://www.agawak.com)**

**(715) 356-5383**

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**AGAWAK:**

*Not just a camp....a second home! Where memories are made and cherished for a lifetime. Where friendships are made and kept for a lifetime. Where character is built and confidence is grown.*



# Birch Trail

## Camp for Girls

SUMMER ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 527 • Minong, WI 54859  
(715) 466-2216 • FAX (715) 466-2217  
www.birchtrail.com

WINTER ADDRESS:

10523 N. Pine Tree Circle • Mequon, WI 53092  
(262) 238-1263 • FAX (262) 238-1269  
directors@birchtrail.com

Thank you Mr. Chairman, my name is Gabe Chernov and I am the owner and director of Birch Trail Camp for girls, a summer camp for children in Minong, WI. Birch Trail has been in operation since 1959 and in my family for 2 generations. My parents purchased the camp in 1985 and ran it prior to my wife and I operating the camp.

We (like many camps in Wisconsin) rely on volunteer doctors to work with other medical professionals to help keep our campers & staff healthy and safe. A camp doctor will typically treat bumps, bruises, rashes and the occasional twisted ankle. Unfortunately, the current process for camp doctors to become licensed in our state is a barrier for many. With excessive paperwork & testing, the process can often take up to 6 months. Minnesota, a state having a summer camp heritage similar to Wisconsin, has a much simpler process for camp doctor licensure that has served Minnesota campers and camps safely and effectively.

We need this bill because the current law makes it difficult and very time consuming for volunteer doctors to obtain a Wisconsin license. Most of these doctors spend 1 week at camp and our fear is that more doctors will stop volunteering because of the difficulty in obtaining a license.

The safety and care of our campers is our main priority and having an easier path for volunteer doctors to care for our children would help us keep our campers and staff healthy and safe.

Thank you for your time and for helping to keep our campers and staff safe.

Sincerely,

Gabe Chernov  
Director, Birch Trail Camp