



MARY FELZKOWSKI

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony for SB 168 & SB 169

Senator Mary Felzkowski

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

March 17, 2021

Good morning Vice-Chair Stafsholt and Committee Members,

In Wisconsin, we're fortunate to have some of the most pristine summer camps a child could hope to attend. These camps, operating throughout the state, provide young men and women with invaluable experiences that help them grow mentally, physically, emotionally and socially. For many children, summer camp offer the first opportunity to spend time away from the city and be surrounded by nature.

In order to be able to function safely, these camps rely on doctors and nurses, oftentimes camp alumni themselves, or parents of a child, volunteering their time and service to treat campers for injuries they may receive. While the vast majority of injuries treated by camp doctors and nurses are minor (ex. rashes, twisted ankles), having medical staff on hand provides an extra level of care that should be encouraged.

Just like the campers, many of these volunteer doctors and nurses come from all over the nation. Current law requires these fully qualified doctors and nurses receive a temporary license from the state to serve as a camp doctor or nurse even if they are only serving for a short time, sometimes as short as a week. There are many time-consuming requirements for temporary licensure and camps are having a harder and harder time finding physicians and nurses who are willing to go through this lengthy process. Some camp doctors have said that it requires far more time and work to obtain the temporary license than the time and work at the camp itself.

These bills will allow doctors and nurses licensed in another state and in good standing to practice at a Wisconsin summer camp for up to 90 days per year if the licensure standards in that jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to the requirements of Wisconsin. Doctors and nurses operating under this exemption are limited to treating campers and camp staff only.

Both of these bills passed the Assembly last session and made it out of committee in the Senate, only to be timed out due to the pandemic. I want to thank my co-authors, Rep. Edming and Rep. Magnafici, for the great efforts they and their staff have put into this package of bills. I'll now let my co-author, Rep. Edming, speak, and he will also explain an amendment we have worked on.

Thank you for your time.



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 168 *Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry* March 17, 2021

Good morning. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today and speak in support of Senate Bill (SB) 168, which is legislation that will make it easier for out-of-state physicians to serve as camp doctors here in Wisconsin. I would like to thank Senator Felzkowski 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 world 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 volunteers who give a few weeks 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 camp doctors are licensed in another state. Current law requires these very capable doctors to obtain a temporary license from the State of Wisconsin, even though they are only volunteering for few weeks. Many of the requirements to receive this temporary licensure are very time-consuming, so camps are finding it harder to find physicians who are willing to go through this lengthy process just to volunteer for a short time. Some camp doctors have said that it is more work to obtain the temporary license than to work at the camp itself.

SB 168 seeks to solve this problem by allowing a physician licensed outside of the Wisconsin to practice at a camp in Wisconsin for up to 90 working days in a year. A physician operating under this exemption would only be permitted to treat campers and staff. Under the bill as drafted, the physician must be licensed in another state or territory of the United States or a foreign country or province where the licensure standards are substantially equivalent to those in Wisconsin to qualify for this exemption. At the request of the Medical Examining Board, we will be introducing a simple amendment that narrows this exemption to only the United States and Canada.

Members of the committee, I ask for your support of this legislation and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry in
Opposition to Senate Bill 169, Relating to Registered Nurses Working at Camps
March 17, 2021**

The Wisconsin Association of School Nurses (WASN) represents nurses working in school settings across Wisconsin. Many school nurses serve or have served as camp nurses during breaks from school.

WASN has reviewed Senate Bill 169. Based on our knowledge of the availability of nurses, and the importance of having quality nursing services available in camp settings, we are not convinced the bill is necessary or that it would continue to ensure the safety and health of campers.

Wisconsin is a Nurse Licensure Compact State. The compact allows nurses to have one license with the ability to practice in their home state and other compact states. There are currently 34 states and at least one territory, Guam, in the compact. Many of the states that are not already in the compact are considering legislation to join.

SB 169 says that the language in the bill does not apply to someone who holds a multistate license. Given that multistate licensure is the wave of the future, why is this bill even necessary?

Also based on our own experiences, we know that Wisconsin has hiring agencies that can produce high-quality nurses for camps. We believe that, in most cases, there are in-state nurses available to work at camps throughout the state.

Finally, the bill says that the Board of Nursing shall create a form for nurses to complete saying that they meet certain criteria. It does not say that the board has the authority to review and confirm that the information is correct. Without that step in the process, we are concerned that the health and safety of campers could be put at risk.

We encourage legislators to oppose this legislation unless our questions and concerns can be addressed. Thank you for considering the views of Wisconsin's school nurses.