AN ACT to create 49.45 (29s) of the statutes; relating to: qualified treatment trainees.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the Department of Health Services from contracting with a health maintenance organization or other managed care organization to provide certain mental health services under the Medical Assistance (MA) program unless that organization allows and pays for qualified treatment trainees to provide those services to MA recipients. “Qualified treatment trainee” is defined in the bill as either a graduate student who is enrolled in an accredited institution in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, nursing, or a closely related field or an individual who has a graduate degree from an accredited institution in one of those fields but who has not completed the applicable supervised practice requirements for licensure as a clinical social worker, certification as a social worker, licensure as a professional counselor, licensure or certification as a marriage and family therapist, or licensure as a psychologist.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 49.45 (29s) of the statutes is created to read:

49.45 (29s) QUALIFIED TREATMENT TRAINEES. (a) In this subsection, “qualified treatment trainee” means any of the following:
1. A graduate student who is enrolled in an accredited institution in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, nursing, or a closely related field.

2. An individual who has a graduate degree from an accredited institution and course work in psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, nursing, or a closely related field who has not yet completed the applicable supervised practice requirements for licensure as a clinical social worker, certification as a social worker, licensure as a professional counselor, licensure or certification as a marriage and family therapist, or licensure as a psychologist.

(b) The department may not contract with a health maintenance organization or other managed care organization to provide psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, or social work services under the Medical Assistance program under this subchapter unless that health maintenance organization or managed care organization allows and pays for qualified treatment trainees to provide those services to Medical Assistance recipients.