



Coalition of Wisconsin Aging **& Health** Groups

Financial Empowerment – Personal Advocacy – Victim Rights

“Advocating for all Generations”

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide membership organization that was founded in 1977.

2/10/2021

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups (CWAG) and Wisconsin Pharmacy Patient Protection Coalition (WPPPC) Testimony in Support of AB 7

Assembly Committee on Health

Chair Sanfelippo, Vice Chair Summerfield, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Rob Gundermann, President and CEO of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups and Chair of the Wisconsin Pharmacy Patient Protection Coalition. We strongly support AB 7, as there are several provisions in the bill, such as the removal of the gag clause on pharmacists, that are important to our Coalition partners.

Gag clauses are being used to bar pharmacists from telling consumers when it would cost less to pay cash for a prescription than paying the copayment on their insurance. People deserve to know the lowest price they can pay for their medications at their pharmacy and gag clauses imposed by PBMs are preventing this. The provision in this bill preventing the use of gag clauses corrects this problem and will enable people to pay less for their prescriptions and will save them money.

This legislation also addresses the issue of drug substitution or non-medical switching which is important to our coalition partners. For some people, switching medications can have serious consequences. For example, when a patient is taking multiple medications, their doctor needs to find the right combination that works without causing negative side effects, and that becomes difficult as more drugs are added into what essentially becomes a drug cocktail. The bill doesn't provide as much protection in this area as we would like, but this legislation puts us in a better place than we are in today. On behalf of the Coalition, I urge you to not only support this important legislation but to insist upon rapid implementation as soon as this legislation is passed. These changes are critical to the people we represent, and they have already waited far too long for these changes to be implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.