



TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Health
FROM: Lisa Davidson, President and CEO, LeadingAge Wisconsin
DATE: November 11, 2025
RE: Informational testimony on Assembly Bill 598

Chairman Moses and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Assembly Bill 598.

LeadingAge Wisconsin represents over 500 nonprofit and mission-driven organizations serving the long-term care community, including nursing homes and assisted living providers. We appreciate the committee's efforts to address important issues in this legislation affecting transitions of care.

Our members have identified some areas where we believe additional clarity would be beneficial to ensure smooth implementation and high-quality care. Specifically, clearer guidance on facility notification responsibilities at admission, particularly in situations involving conflicts or concerns about Patient Representatives would be beneficial. Additionally, it would be helpful if the legislation included defined procedures for addressing situations in which a Patient Representative is unable or unwilling to serve, or when a resident objects to decisions made on their behalf.

The scope of authority granted to Patient Representatives—especially in relation to healthcare decisions and access to financial information needed to support medical assistance applications—requires further specification to reduce ambiguity. We also encourage clear distinctions between the roles and authorities of Patient Representatives and legal guardians to align with existing legal frameworks. Lastly, a better understanding of the sunset clause's effect on ongoing care responsibilities would help providers plan accordingly.

LeadingAge Wisconsin's long-term care providers are committed to working collaboratively with hospitals, health systems, and other partners to address challenges and improve transitions from acute care to long-term care settings. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and cooperation with these stakeholders to resolve practical issues as they arise, ensuring the best outcomes for residents and care providers alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Davidson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Davidson" clearly legible.

Lisa M. Davidson
President and CEO
LeadingAge Wisconsin