



Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Health:

2021 Assembly Bill 5 (LRB 1510/1)

Testimony Submitted by:
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Good afternoon Chairman Sanfelippo, Ranking Member Subek and members of the Assembly Committee on Health. My name is John Sauer and I have the privilege of serving as the President/CEO of the LeadingAge Wisconsin, a statewide Association representing mission-driven nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other community-based providers in Wisconsin. In total, the Association represents over 550 nursing home, assisted living, senior housing, and other community-based providers serving older adults and individuals with a disability throughout the State.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on 2021 AB 5. Our comments are directed to page 3, Section 3 of the AB 5.

LeadingAge Wisconsin supports Section 3 of AB 5 which would specifically allow pharmacies operating under the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care to simultaneously administer the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus vaccines to assisted living facility residents and staff and any other long-term care facility residents or staff included under the program. This provision would ensure that all individuals residing on a campus with more than one level of care/service could receive the vaccine on the same day. For example, we believe Section 3 would have addressed situations in which the pharmacy visited a long-term care campus to vaccinate the nursing home residents but assumed they could not at the same time also vaccinate assisted living or independent living residents residing on the campus (Note: The assisted living residents will be covered under Part B of the Pharmacy Partnership program which begins on January 25, 2021). Thus, the intent of Section 3 is to avoid unnecessary visits to long-term care campuses and enable the pharmacies to more efficiently vaccinate older adults.

It should be noted the Department of Health Services (DHS) has announced it has directed the pharmacies operating under the Pharmacy Partnership program to administer the vaccine to all residents and staff on the long-term care campus, including residents of the nursing home, assisted living and/or independent living facilities. We understand this policy is now possible because the State has banked or reserved a sufficient number of vaccines necessary under the parameters set forth by federal Pharmacy Partnership program.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share my remarks today. I am happy to address any questions you may have or provide additional information to the Committee as requested.