



**To:** Members of the Assembly Committee on Health

**From:** American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Wisconsin Section  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Wisconsin Hospital Association

**Date:** July 29, 2021

**RE:** Wisconsin Hospital, Physician and Medical School Coalition's Position on Assembly Bill 128

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Wisconsin's hospitals, medical school faculty and physicians all greatly value the physician-patient relationship and take their respective informed consent obligations very seriously. Physician faculty are trained to show medical students appropriate informed consent practices and provide students with clinical training opportunities that are relevant to the patient's condition. Further, through the existing informed consent process, a patient will have a choice to have student learners involved in their care. If the patient chooses not to involve students, that is the patient's choice and it is respected by their provider.

Any patient who believes that their wishes have not been respected by a provider practicing within a hospital should report a complaint to the Department of Health Services' Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) for review. DQA is the state's entity for regulating hospitals and DQA surveyors have authority to interview providers, hospital staff and even investigate a patient's medical record when a complaint has been filed. No other state official, including elected officials, are ever able to see a complete picture of the patient's care because of patient confidentiality laws.

In addition to DQA's regulatory enforcement authority over hospitals, physicians and other health care providers are regulated by their respective examining boards through the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Any complaints regarding unprofessional conduct by a health care provider should be submitted to DSPS.

This coalition remains concerned with this legislation, as drafted. We look forward to working with the author and committee members to ensure the bill is consistent with informed consent practices in Wisconsin and that the legislation does not cause unintended consequences for hospitals, care providers, health care student learners and patients.