

Governor Vetoes Direct Primary Care Bill

Also on August 8, Governor Evers vetoed direct primary care legislation (Senate Bill 4). As drafted, this legislation would have put in place parameters for direct primary care agreements between physicians and patients and would have clarified that such agreements are exempt from state insurance law. WAFP actively advocated in favor of this legislation.

Governor Evers' veto statement on this legislation included the following:

“The bill also provides that a healthcare provider would be prohibited from declining to enter into or terminating a direct primary care agreement based solely on the patient’s health status. A healthcare provider may only decline to accept a patient for a direct primary care agreement if the provider’s practice has reached maximum capacity or if the patient’s medical condition prevents the provider from providing the appropriate care. A provider may only terminate a direct primary care agreement if the patient (or patient’s employer) fails to pay the subscription fee, if the patient repeatedly fails to adhere to the recommended treatment plan, if the patient has performed an act of fraud related to the agreement, if the patient is abusive and presents an emotional or physical danger to staff or other patients, if the provider discontinues operation under direct primary care agreements, or if the provider believes the relationship is no longer therapeutic due to a dysfunctional relationship between the provider and the patient.

I am again vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature failing to provide sufficient protections for patients receiving care under direct primary care agreements from being discriminated against and potentially losing access to their healthcare. I previously raised similar concerns when I vetoed earlier iterations of this legislation five years ago—concerns the Legislature has declined to satisfactorily address in the bill that is now before me and despite having ample opportunity.”