

VOICES FOR NON-OPIOID CHOICES

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Jesse James
Wisconsin State Senate
Wisconsin State Legislature
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Clint Moses
Wisconsin State Assembly
Wisconsin State Legislature
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator James and Representative Moses,

On behalf of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (“Voices”), thank you for your leadership in authoring the pain parity legislation (LRB 2530/1, LRB 4833/1). Too often, patients are steered toward prescription opioids to manage pain, not because that is what’s best for them or what they would choose, but because insurance practices make non-addictive approaches inaccessible. This legislation changes that status quo and puts patients and caregivers where they belong – at the forefront of choosing their desired course of care. In doing so, the legislation puts patients first and can prevent opioid addiction before it starts – protecting families across the state.

We support LRB 2530/1 and LRB 4833/1 because it empowers patients and providers to choose the treatment decisions that make the most sense for them. By leveling the playing field between opioids and non-opioid therapies, the legislation removes the incentives that exist and lead to an unnecessary overreliance on prescription opioids. This leads to unnecessary exposure to narcotics, which carry with it some addiction and long-term abuse risks.

The opioid crisis has taken a heavy toll on communities across the state. In Wisconsin last year, there were 766 opioid-related drug overdose deaths, accounting for 67.3% of all drug overdose fatalities in the state.¹ For many, the path towards addiction may begin after being prescribed opioids to manage an acute pain incident, such as for postsurgical pain, an accident, or a sports injury. In Wisconsin, there were 32.8 opioid prescriptions written for every 100 persons in 2023.²

Every opportunity to prevent unnecessary exposure represents lives spared from addiction, families kept whole, and long-term costs to the health care system reduced. Legislation like this is critical because it does not wait for someone to develop a dependency before intervening; it prevents that first exposure from becoming a gateway to harm.

Voices applauds your leadership and vision in advancing a patient-centered approach to pain care. By strengthening access to non-opioid options, Wisconsin is setting a standard that will both improve outcomes today and reshape how we respond to pain management for years to come.

With appreciation,



Chris Fox
Executive Director
Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

² Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2024). Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/opioid-dispensing-rate-maps.html>