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Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (WACEP) Statement on Governor's Veto of SB 145

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (WACEP) applauds Governor Tony Evers' veto of SB 145, the APRN bill. This legislation jeopardized patient safety and lacked basic guardrails to ensure Wisconsin residents receive the best medical treatment possible, especially in an emergency setting.

Despite great efforts at compromise with the bill's proponents, this legislation still fell significantly short. WACEP appreciates the Governor's prioritization of patient care, safety, and well-being of Wisconsin residents. We also respect his willingness to work towards reasonable compromise. WACEP is committed to doing the same.

While nurses and nurse practitioners are important parts of the care team, physicians trained in emergency medicine are vital in an emergency department. As debate on this legislation continues, we urge the legislature to include provisions that make certain that an emergency physician is always staffing a hospital emergency department. We are thankful that the Governor included those provisions in his proposed compromise, and we hope the legislature will truly recognize the importance of this component should legislation move forward next session.

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