

Schachtner Co-hosts Roundtable on CNA Shortage

I co-hosted a roundtable on Wisconsin's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) shortage with Department of Workforce Development Secretary Caleb Frostman yesterday. During the New Richmond roundtable, CNAs and nursing home directors from western Wisconsin shared their concerns about Wisconsin's capacity to provide long-term care services to our seniors. Key challenges that were brought up included [low Medicaid reimbursement rates](#), low CNA pay, and increasing demand for long-term care services. To address these concerns, Secretary Frostman and I advocated for Medicaid expansion, which would increase access to health care while reducing state taxpayer costs. Expanding Medicaid, as proposed by Governor Evers, would also attract \$1.6 billion in new federal funds that can help address our growing long-term care needs. Senate District 10 counties (Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix) would see \$60 million in additional investments under the governor's proposal.

I have also co-sponsored four proposals to help address the shortage and retention issue. These include:

[Senate Bill 222](#) – which provides \$1,000,000 for nurse aide training in areas with nurse aide shortages through the Wisconsin Technical College System.

[Senate Bill 223](#) – which creates a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for costs incurred for becoming a CNA.

[Senate Bill 103](#) – which lowers the required amount of CNA training hours to match federal requirements and requirements in Minnesota.

LRB 0981 – which would direct federal funds from Medicaid expansion to increase reimbursement for personal care services by 2.5 percent each year. The reimbursement rate increase will go directly to the personal care worker.

