



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Rep. Gary Hebl/608-266-7678

INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

BadgerRx MAKES PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AFFORDABLE

MADISON - One of the biggest health care concerns today is access to affordable prescription medications. Throughout Dane County and across the state of Wisconsin, seniors and working families struggle to afford the skyrocketing cost of medicine. Luckily, programs like BadgerCare and SeniorCare exist to help those seniors and families who need help the most.

What many fail to realize, however, is that the high cost of prescription drugs affects many more Wisconsin citizens. Across the Badger state, 1.1 million people lack prescription drug coverage, and an additional 300,000 have no health insurance whatsoever. That means that one out of every six Wisconsin citizens must pay full price for their prescription medicine out of their own pocket. For too long, these citizens have had nowhere to turn because they weren't old enough or earned too much money.

In Wisconsin, these people now have someplace to turn to thanks to a new program called BadgerRx. Starting this month, anyone in Wisconsin who either lacks prescription drug coverage or has insufficient coverage can obtain a BadgerRx Gold Card. For a low annual fee of \$25 per individual or \$75 per family, enrollees can receive savings of 25-40 percent on their prescription purchases. The program also offers a \$5 discount on the annual premium for those who sign up online at www.badgerxgold.com.

BadgerRx is administered through the Madison-based Navitus Health Solutions and acts as a statewide purchasing co-op. It is patterned after a similar successful program for state employees enacted as part of the 2003-2005 budget. That program, also maintained by Navitus, saved 235,000 employees an average of 25 percent on their purchases and saved the state \$25 million.

This program is also beneficial to the state because it will cover tens-of-thousands of Wisconsin citizens and doesn't cost the state a dime. Under the new initiative, those lacking health care, those whose health care does not include prescription coverage

and those with high deductibles are all eligible. BadgerRx will also cover citizens with preexisting medical conditions who may be screened out of private plans.

BadgerRx also benefit local pharmacies by reducing the need to buy medication online. Because more than 700 of the more than 880 pharmacies across the state have signed up for the program, enrollees will be comfortable in the knowledge that their BadgerRx Gold Card can be used in a local drug store.

It is important to spread the word to those who need reliable coverage that a real option is available.

If you are in need of affordable, reliable prescription drug coverage, I encourage you to contact my office at 266-7678 and I will send the information to you.

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