



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Rep. Robyn Vining and Sen. Mark Spreitzer Re-Introduce Epi Access Legislation

MADISON - Today, State Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa) and State Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) re-introduced Epi Access legislation aimed at making epinephrine more accessible and affordable in Wisconsin. The first bill allows pharmacists to substitute a less costly epinephrine product for patients unless a prescriber indicates otherwise. The second bill directs the Department of Health Services to reimburse Wisconsin ambulance providers for epinephrine, because not every ambulance can stock epinephrine auto-injectors due to cost. Senator Spreitzer and Representative Vining worked with Senator Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) to introduce these important bills.

Rep. Robyn Vining said of the legislation, “Wisconsinites deserve access to quality, affordable healthcare, and access to the life-saving epinephrine is certainly part of that—especially for those who require epinephrine to survive.

“For people who suffer from severe allergies, access to epinephrine is not a choice—it is a life or death situation. When high costs limit access to epinephrine, families are left to choose between their life-saving medication and everyday needs, like groceries. One year, an epinephrine prescription could be \$15 and the next year it could be \$100, at the same pharmacy and with the same health insurance. Families should not have to make this impossible choice between necessary health care and other needs. Further, Wisconsin families should be able to expect that when they call an ambulance in an emergency situation, it will be stocked with epinephrine—that’s a reasonable expectation.”

Sen. Mark Spreitzer said, “This legislation comes directly from the experiences of our constituents. In 2019, I had a constituent contact me after he had been stung repeatedly by hornets on his property and fell unconscious. His life was only saved when the ambulance that responded met a physician on the side of the highway to administer epinephrine.

“If you know someone who needs to have epinephrine on hand in case they have an allergic reaction, you’ve probably heard about the high cost of certain kinds of epinephrine autoinjectors. Given the new and more affordable products that are now on the market, no one’s life should be in danger because they cannot afford epinephrine.

“Whether it’s finding ways to make sure that epinephrine is affordable for people who carry it every day or ensuring that every ambulance has epinephrine on board, we are working to ensure that epinephrine is affordable and accessible across Wisconsin.”

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