

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Contact: Rep. Jessie Rodriguez

March 16, 2021  
(608) 266-0610

### **Rodriguez Supports Bills to Improve the Health Care System for Patients**

**MADISON** – State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) joined her Assembly colleagues in supporting multiple pieces of legislation aimed at ensuring Wisconsinites have access to affordable health care and prescription drugs.

“In every corner of our state there are Wisconsinites who worry about access to and affordability of health care. Today I joined my Assembly colleagues in supporting legislation that will help ensure our constituents continue to have access to care, and make it more affordable for them,” said Rep. Rodriguez.

The first bill passed today, 2021 Assembly Bill 7 ([AB 7](#)) by Representative Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) and Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to be licensed through the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI). The proposal was brought forward following a similar bill that received broad bipartisan support in the Assembly last session.

“The PBM bill will help lower prescription drug prices and insurance premiums that so often are driven up by PBM practices. One thing I like about this bill is it ensures pharmacists are always able to tell their patients when the out-of-pocket cost of a prescription drug is less than they would pay using their insurance,” said Rodriguez. “I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation and look forward to seeing the ways it improves the health and lives of Wisconsinites.”

The Assembly also passed 2021 Assembly Bill 34 ([AB 34](#)) by Representative Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser) and Senator André Jacque (R-DePere). AB 34 prevents health insurance companies from refusing coverage or charging more because a person has a pre-existing condition. The proposal also prohibits lifetime limitations on the dollar value of benefits under health insurance plans.

“Approximately one out of every six Wisconsinites is living with a pre-existing condition. It is vitally important we ensure these vulnerable members of our communities are protected in case provisions of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) are no longer enforceable or no longer preempt state law. I thank Rep. Magnafici for her work on this issue, and for re-introducing this bill this session,” said Rep. Rodriguez.

###