



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Representative Rob Brooks Applauds DOC Prescription Drug Coverage

Madison, WI—Earlier this session, Representative Rob Brooks (R-Saukville) introduced legislation to create greater stability of prescription drug accessibility for inmates upon release from correctional facilities.

Typically, when inmates are released from a Department of Corrections facility, they are provided with two weeks of medication and a four-week prescription for any current medications. Assembly Bill 653 directs the Department of Corrections to release inmates with a four-week supply of medication and an eight-week prescription, when deemed clinically appropriate by a prescriber.

“My bill provides additional prescriber oversight of inmates’ health and safety when formulating a medication plan. The legislation includes language requiring prescribers to verify that all medications and quantities are clinically appropriate for each inmate. These changes will ensure that individuals have medication available during the period of time reasonably necessary to consult with a health care provider to obtain a new supply, as they reintegrate into society,” stated Representative Brooks.

Assembly Bill 653 received bipartisan support in both chambers of the legislature, and recently, the Department of Corrections announced that the bill’s protocols had been implemented across the state.

“I am proud that DOC decided to employ the changes for which I advocated. This is great news for the entire State of Wisconsin. According to DOC, 75% of its inmate population is taking some type of medication. Society wins when offenders are successfully released from prison and do not recidivate. Reentry into society is not easy, and lack of prescription medication for health issues can make it even harder. Studies have shown that greater access to necessary prescription drugs leads to lower recidivism rates. I am pleased that Wisconsin now has an additional tool to continue working towards decreasing recidivism,” said Representative Brooks.

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