



**JILL BILLINGS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Rep. Billings Xylazine Test Strip Bill Receives Assembly Public Hearing**

Madison – This week, legislation to legalize Xylazine Test Strips in Wisconsin received a public hearing in the State Assembly and was voted out of Committee in the State Senate. Representative Billings had worked to forward this bill and released the following statement:

“AB 950/SB 875 legalizes the use of xylazine test strips in Wisconsin. Xylazine, commonly known as tranq, is a veterinary tranquilizer that is not approved for human use. Unfortunately, it has increasingly been found mixed with other illicit drugs. People may be unknowingly ingesting a dangerous combination of drugs laced with fentanyl and xylazine that has been found in communities across the state. Of great concern is that while a potentially deadly opioid overdose may be reversed by administering naloxone, xylazine overdoses are not reversible”

“The Wisconsin Department of Health Services estimates that 5-6% of overdoses in Wisconsin have xylazine present. In fact, 35% of fentanyl overdoses in early 2023 in Milwaukee County contained xylazine, according to the office of the Milwaukee Medical Examiner. The first fatal overdose involving xylazine in La Crosse occurred in October 2023.”

“Legalizing the use of xylazine test strips will help to reduce overdose deaths and save lives. This issue was brought to my attention by Dr. Chris Eberlein, an emergency medicine specialist in La Crosse. I thank Dr. Eberlein and the many advocates and stakeholders in our community and across the State of Wisconsin for their work in this area.”

“The Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families voted this bill out of Committee this week, paving the way for a vote before the full State Senate. The Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety also held a positive public hearing on this legislation. I am hopeful that this bill will move quickly to pass in the Legislature and arrive at the Governor’s desk for his signature.”

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