



MARY FELZKOWSKI

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

Senate Passes Crucial Legislation Improving Access to Prescription Drugs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Sen. Mary Felzkowski

February 16, 2021
608-266-2509

Madison, WI: The Wisconsin State Senate voted today to approve legislation that will put parameters in place for Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Wisconsin. Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) authored the bill and is eager to see the implementation of this legislation.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) are businesses that administer and manage prescription drug benefits. Because of the contracts they negotiate with manufacturers, health plans, and pharmacies, PBMs play a crucial role in the prescription drug supply chain, including influencing pricing and drug selection. Despite this role, some PBM practices actually make it more difficult for patients to get the medications they need at a reasonable price, and inflict undue harm on pharmacies, which in turn also negatively affects patients.

“There is no more critical time than right now to help Wisconsinites better manage and improve their own health,” said Sen. Felzkowski, “I have brought this legislation forward, along with my co-author Rep. Mike Schraa, to do just that by helping to lower out-of-pocket drug costs and increase access to prescribed medications,” said Sen. Felzkowski.

In the United States, close to 95% of Americans have plans managed by PBMs. Despite managing plans funded by taxpayer dollars, there are currently almost no guidelines for PBMs at the state level. This legislation will put necessary parameters in place that ultimately best serve the patient.

“As a legislator who serves a very rural district spanning eleven counties, I can tell you firsthand that independent pharmacies are crucial for access to health care for my constituents,” Sen. Felzkowski continued. “This bill will go a long way in helping these pharmacies stay in business and continue to serve our communities. It will also put necessary parameters in place that ultimately best serve the patient.”

The bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support. It now heads to the Assembly for a vote before the full body. If approved, it will be placed on Governor Evers’ desk to be signed into law.

###