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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2023

Working Until the Job Gets Done

Growing up on the family farm, I learned at an early age that you don't stop working until the job gets done.

I'm proud of the work I've done this past year to improve our transportation infrastructure, modernize Wisconsin's three-tier system of alcohol regulation, and support small businesses, but there is more work to be done before this legislative session ends. This includes lowering prescription drug prices, ensuring our communities have access to clean water, and making child care more accessible for working families.

No one should be forced to ration or skip the medication they need because it is too expensive. Relief for Wisconsinites to afford their medications is long overdue.

I have introduced a bill to create the Office of Prescription Drug Affordability and the Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board. The legislation would create a review panel of prescription drug costs and their impact on the people of Wisconsin, while also establishing greater transparency and payment limits to prevent the skyrocketing costs of essential prescription drugs.

I have also introduced legislation to cap the price of insulin in Wisconsin. Insulin is not an optional medication, but unfortunately, too many people living with diabetes are forced to choose between this lifesaving medication and putting food on the table.

While some progress has been made to help lower the cost, more needs to be done for the people that need it. Capping the price of insulin is a simple, straightforward solution to reduce the cost of prescription drugs in Wisconsin.

I am also a cosponsor on legislation to support local pharmacies, while also increasing accountability for pharmacy benefit managers. Greater accountability will protect our local pharmacies and stem the rising cost of prescription drugs.

At the same time, we need to make sure families can access clean drinking water. Everyone deserves to feel confident knowing that the water coming out of their tap is safe.

Currently, the PFAS legislation in the State Legislature is incomplete and does not meet the needs of the people in the Town of Campbell.

To improve the bill, I introduced an amendment to remove limitations on testing, remediation, and accountability for PFAS polluters, prioritize private well owners in the Innocent Landowner Grant Program, and tie the bill to the PFAS trust fund created in the 2023-25 budget to ensure the money can quickly reach those who are impacted by PFAS. Unfortunately, this amendment was rejected by the majority party.

It is imperative that we support funding for our communities and private well owners who have been impacted. We must get this done for the people of the Town of Campbell, and for all others affected by PFAS across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's working families are also facing a child care crisis. Parents can't afford its high cost, yet we struggle to find providers and get people into the profession. That is why I support funding the Child Care Counts program.

Child care providers and working families have been asking the legislature to fund Child Care Counts for months. Since COVID, this program has utilized federal dollars to extend a lifeline to child care providers through support for wages and operation costs, but this program is set to expire in 2024 without legislative action.

Parents and businesses alike have made it clear that the current system does not work and that more needs to be done. For us to grow our economy and expand our state's workforce, we need to invest in child care.

Wisconsin's working families expect us to finish the job we started. I'll continue to fight until we lower the cost of health care, protect our water, and improve access to child care.

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Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.