



BRAD PFAFF STATE SENATOR

Lowering Costs for Working People

State Senator Brad Pfaff (D – Onalaska)

Costs continue to rise. Food, electricity rates, and rent. Since 2020, inflation has increased by more than twenty percent. It doesn't seem to matter how hard one works; at the end of the month, the bills pile up and ends don't meet. As a state senator, I always consider how legislation impacts people's bottom lines. This session, I've supported common-sense legislation to make life a bit easier. More details below.

Housing. While much still needs to be done to lower housing costs, one thing is for sure: Wall Street-based private equity firms and hedge funds should not be buying up single-family homes and driving up prices. People, not corporations, should buy and own homes in our communities. Providing incentives to retrofit and rehabilitate existing buildings and commercial sites, while reducing regulations that drive up housing costs, are also measures that I've worked on in a bipartisan manner to reduce costs.

Targeted Tax Relief. Earlier this year, in passing the state budget, I was proud to support targeted income tax relief for working families. At the same time, I voted to eliminate the sales tax on household utility bills. I've also called for greater state funding for our local public schools. For years, the Republican majority in the legislature has underfunded our schools, unfairly placing the burden on school districts and ultimately on local property taxpayers. The legislation I cosponsored provides local schools with greater state aid—one of the best tools we have to keep property taxes in check.

Family Expenses. Over the summer, I authored a "back-to-school" tax-free holiday weekend to ease some of the costs parents face as they get their kids ready for a new school year. I also introduced legislation to help parents afford school lunches. If passed, the Healthy School Meals for All proposal could save parents \$150 per kid per month, real relief for middle-class families. I again introduced legislation to cap insulin costs to \$35 per month. No one should have to choose between life-saving medication and putting food on their table.

Farmers. I believe that if you own it, you should be able to fix it. Sadly, that is not the case for many farmers today. Too often, they are forced to use an authorized dealer for repairs, resulting in higher costs. This spring, I introduced legislation to require equipment manufacturers to provide farmers and independent repair shops with access to parts, tools, and diagnostic software, so farmers can repair their own equipment or take it to their preferred mechanic. Farmers also need access to more markets. I was proud to introduce legislation that helps local organizations purchase food from local producers, helping farmers make ends meet.

Higher Education & Workforce Development. Growing our state's economy is one of my top priorities. To do that, we must invest in higher education and workforce development. Recently, I introduced two proposals to help make higher education attainable for more Wisconsin families. The Wisconsin Tuition Promise would provide "last-dollar" gap funding to students from middle-class families after all federal grants and scholarships are applied. I also authored the College Savings Fairness Act (CSFA) to provide student loan borrowers with the same type of tax relief as those who can save on the front end through Edvest accounts.

There is much to be done. I stand ready to work in a bipartisan manner to enact practical, common-sense legislation that keeps more money in working people's pockets. Helping hardworking Wisconsinites shouldn't be a red or blue issue. It is time to get to work.