



BRAD PFAFF
STATE SENATOR

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Capping the Cost of Healthcare

Residents of western Wisconsin and the 32nd Senate District too often must deal with prescription drugs overwhelming their household budget.

In the Wisconsin Legislature, we have solutions that would start to address the problem of high drug prices. Among others, this session I co-authored legislation to shine more light on the price of prescription drugs for consumers. Drug manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers have kept the true costs of these drugs in the dark for too long, and it's time for greater transparency. To provide direct relief to those on BadgerCare, I also co-authored legislation to eliminate cost-sharing for their prescription drugs. This would mean millions of dollars in savings for patients across our state.

March 23rd, 2022 marked the 12th anniversary of President Obama signing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. 12 years in, this law has helped over 200,000 Wisconsin residents gain healthcare coverage, but we can do more to expand access.

I have helped take the lead to lower the cost of health insurance for people across this state by introducing BadgerCare expansion. Research has shown that accepting full Medicaid expansion, made possible by the ACA, has lowered premiums in expansion states. 12 years after becoming law, Wisconsin is one of only 12 states to not take this action. It is way past time we do.

To lower the price of insulin, I also co-authored legislation to cap cost-sharing for this prescription drug. As a parent of someone with Type 1 Diabetes, I understand the costs and challenges associated with having this disease. People shouldn't have to ration insulin or worry about whether they can afford it. For many Wisconsinites, the challenge is not just the costs of prescription drugs like insulin, but compounding costs from equipment to administer their prescription drugs as well.

Expanding BadgerCare and capping the price of insulin are simple, straightforward solutions to reduce the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs in Wisconsin. At the same time, these are also important, life-changing issues that impact the health of the people we represent. We should be getting this done.

Unfortunately, the Wisconsin Legislature has adjourned for the year without addressing these issues. They didn't even give these bills a hearing.

That's not right. We have plenty of time left this year to lower drug prices, including insulin. I will continue to work and stand ready to provide relief for the people I represent.

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