



State Senator
Rick Gudex

District 18

April 28, 2015

To: The Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations
From: Sen. Rick Gudex
Re: Assembly Bill 120

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for hearing this bill today and for allowing me to speak on its behalf.

Under current law, hospitals and health plans are allowed to create drug formularies. Last session, the Legislature unanimously passed Act 294, which extended this option to nursing homes as well.

A “drug formulary” is a list of guidelines which helps medical personnel determine what medications they will use, and which suggests possible lower-price alternatives to more expensive or less available drugs. Using a formulary is a cost-effectiveness measure that cuts down on both medication expenses and staff time.

The thing is, pharmacists are not able to legally dispense any drug other than the specific drug prescribed, unless they’re specifically authorized to follow an institution’s formulary. That’s why we have laws specifically allowing this for hospitals, health plans, and nursing homes.

This bill would allow the same thing for our prison system, which, in many cases, could be said to be running its own long term care facility. Under the bill, the Department of Corrections will create a formulary board – a committee already exists in the Department of Adult Institutions that fits the bill – which will be responsible for their formulary. Pharmacists will then be authorized to make alternate drug selections based on that formulary. As always, if a doctor specifically states that no substitutions can be made, then no substitutions will be. This is a small step to give Corrections more flexibility in caring for its inmates.

Thank you.



Rob Hutton

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

April 28, 2015

To: The Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations

From: Rep. Rob Hutton

Re: Assembly Bill 120

Testimony of Rep. Rob Hutton in Support of Assembly Bill 120

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for giving Assembly Bill 120 the opportunity of a public hearing.

Currently, we are all involved in crafting Wisconsin's biennial budget. One theme that we all strive to follow is finding ways to make government cost less and work more effectively. With the Department of Corrections continually falling within the top five expenditures for GPR, it is a prime agency within which to drive meaningful reform.

By extending the use of "drug formularies" to DOC, which were granted to hospitals and health plans last session, we can provide a tool to the department to control costs of medication. With an aging prison population this measure will be invaluable to the Department of Corrections.

By simply extending the use of drug formularies to DOC, we are giving them the ability to use alternative low cost drugs to serve our inmate population. Along with the reduced prices, officially establishing a "drug formulary" will eliminate the current paperwork requirement when shortages of specific drugs occur. This will result in the second benefit of increased doctor to patient face-time.

From an administrative perspective, this program would be readily absorbed by the agency, as the Department of Adult Institutions maintains the committee outlined in the legislation.

In summary, establishing a drug formulary will give DOC another tool to incorporate innovative practices, allowing them to more cost-effectively administer state services. DOC has indicated their support in our discussions. This is an easy step in maintaining quality of care within our corrections facilities, while making Wisconsin's tax dollars go further.

Thank you for your consideration and support.