



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBYN VINING
14TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
WAUWATOSA • WEST ALLIS

Rep. Robyn Vining
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 783
January 18, 2024

Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 783, a bill that makes access to life-saving medication easier and more affordable.

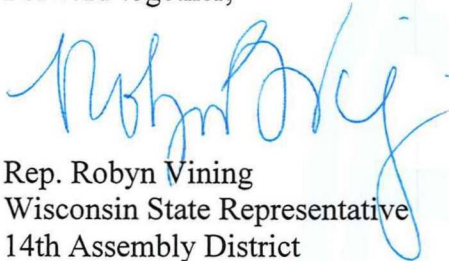
Wisconsinites deserve access to quality, affordable healthcare, and access to the life-saving epinephrine is certainly part of that—especially for those who require epinephrine to survive.

For people who suffer from severe allergies, access to epinephrine is not a choice—it is a life or death situation. When high costs limit access to epinephrine, families are left to choose between their life-saving medication and everyday needs, like groceries. One year, an epinephrine prescription could be \$15 and the next year it could be \$150, at the same pharmacy and with the same health insurance. My family has personally experienced this. Families should not have to make this impossible choice between necessary healthcare and other family needs.

Senate Bill 783 empowers pharmacists to use their discretion and knowledge to substitute drug products that counteract anaphylaxis. This means that if someone was prescribed an EpiPen, but the pharmacist found that a different type of product to counter anaphylaxis was less expensive, the pharmacist could exchange the prescription. With Senate Bill 783, patients have the flexibility to work with their pharmacist to find the least expensive option, and pharmacists have the flexibility to offer patients lower-cost alternatives. If the prescription calls for an EpiPen—Senate Bill 783 provides pharmacists another tool to counteract anaphylaxis.

Healthcare should be high quality, affordable, and accessible—this bill seeks to accomplish that for those who require epinephrine to survive. I ask that you support Senate Bill 783 in this committee and on the Senate floor, so we can move Wisconsin forward, *together!*

Forward together,



Rep. Robyn Vining
Wisconsin State Representative
14th Assembly District



To: Senate Committee on Health
From: Senator Mark Spreitzer
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 783
Date: January 18, 2024

Chair Cabral-Guevara and committee members:

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 783, and for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of this bill. This bill allows for the interchange of epinephrine products that, in the opinion of a pharmacist, have the equivalent therapeutic effect.

News stories about the fluctuating cost of epinephrine are plentiful, and some Wisconsinites are routinely unable to afford epinephrine autoinjectors due to cost. This is exacerbated when a prescription is issued for a specific brand of autoinjector - like an EpiPen for example - that may cost more than other types of epinephrine delivery systems, even in a generic form. Recently, different systems of administering epinephrine have been brought to market using a physically distinct method of injecting the epinephrine into a patient. This mechanical difference does not make a difference to the consumer who is using the product in response to an incident of anaphylaxis, but the lower price will make a meaningful difference if they are able to actually afford that product when they cannot afford another delivery method.

Statute currently does not allow for a pharmacist to interchange that lower-cost product in place of a more expensive epinephrine autoinjector. SB 783 would allow pharmacists to provide a cheaper but equivalent epinephrine product to prescription holders. This allows patients to take advantage of lower-cost options - ensuring that they are able to access a product that could save their life.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Spreitzer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Spreitzer
State Senator
15th Senate District

15th SENATE DISTRICT

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CLINTON ★ STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANDERSON

To: Senate Committee on Health
From: Representative Clinton Anderson
Re: Testimony on Senate Bills 783
Date: January 18, 2024

Senator Cabral-Guevara and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

For individuals facing severe allergies, timely access to life-saving medications such as epinephrine is not a matter of choice but a vital necessity. Unfortunately, escalating costs of epinephrine prescriptions have created a challenging situation for many families, forcing them to make difficult choices between obtaining their life-saving medication and meeting basic needs.

SB 783 allows pharmacists to substitute a drug product, with the exception of cases explicitly indicated by the prescriber, if the substitute is deemed by the pharmacist to have a substantially equivalent therapeutic effect. This adjustment is particularly significant in addressing the financial burden faced by individuals relying on epinephrine, where costs can unpredictably fluctuate from one year to the next.

The proposed bill ensures that pharmacists have the flexibility to substitute a more cost-effective alternative, provided certain conditions are met. These conditions include obtaining consent from the consumer, informing them of the differences in drug products, and allowing the consumer the option to refuse the substitution.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Clinton Anderson
State Representative
45th Assembly District