

# Rep. Vining: Introduces “Epi access” legislation

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MADISON – Today, State Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit), and State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) introduced the “Epi Access” bill to make epinephrine more accessible and affordable in Wisconsin. The first part of the bill directs the Department of Health Services to use general purpose revenue (GPR) to stock every ambulance in Wisconsin with epinephrine auto-injectors, because not every ambulance can stock them due to cost. The second part of this bill allows pharmacists to substitute a less costly epinephrine product for patients, unless a prescriber indicates otherwise. Rep. Vining released the following statement in regards to this legislation:

“Wisconsinites want their healthcare to be high quality, affordable, and accessible. This is true for all aspects of the healthcare system, and this legislation seeks to accomplish that 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 access to epinephrine is limited by high costs, 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 \$100, at the same pharmacy with the same health insurance.

“Families should not have to make this impossible choice between necessary health care and other needs. This legislation will improve access in our communities and give families more affordable options for epinephrine.”