

Sen. Smith: Sales tax relief for over-the-counter medication

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Madison, WI — Senator Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick) and Representative Joe Sheehan (D-Sheboygan) have introduced new legislation to exempt over-the-counter medication from sales or use tax statewide.

“Affordability has always been a priority of mine in the healthcare industry,” said Senator Smith. “This is a commonsense idea for people to cope with rising costs.”

“We need to move in the direction of lowering costs for Wisconsin families,” said Representative Sheehan. “Sales tax exemptions for over-the-counter drugs promotes basic healthcare affordability.”

Medication, like most basic necessities, has continued to get more expensive. Over-the-counter medication is a standard part of healthcare for many, and is subject to sales and use taxes, adding yet another fee to the already onerous cost of healthcare. Wisconsinites deserve relief at a time when their health should be our number one priority in the Capitol.

The legislation, LRB-6038, provides that relief. This bill creates a state and local sales and use tax exemption for the sale of over-the-counter drugs. No longer will Wisconsinites be faced with an added tax for over-the-counter medication.

The bill was circulated to members of the legislature with a February 12th deadline for co-sponsorship.