

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 25TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Rep. Paul Tittl Votes for Health Care Improvements

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Manitowoc legislator votes to lower prescription drug costs, and protect individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Madison...Representative Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc) voted for a series of bills that will help Wisconsinites by working to reduce the cost of prescription medications, protect people with pre-existing conditions from losing insurance coverage, and increase the number of vaccinators by allowing dentists to administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. "This day was especially big as AB 63, my psychology bill, passed after over 5 years of work, with unanimous and bipartisan support, and could not have done so without the help of many experts and my fellow colleagues."

"Keeping healthcare accessible and affordable continues to be one of my top priorities," Rep. Tittl said. "As Wisconsin continues to recover from the pandemic, these bills will provide security for health of all Wisconsinites. Rep Tittl hit on his bill noting that, "mental health has always been among my top priorities, AB 63, also helps with mental health access in Wisconsin, as mental health issues have only become more prevalent during the pandemic."

Some of the bills passed include:

<u>Assembly Bill 63</u> — Under current law, no person may engage in the practice of psychology without being licensed as a psychologist by the Psychology Examining Board. This bill makes revisions to the laws governing the examining board and the practice of psychology. I want to emphasize this bill would increase the number of psychologists in the workforce, such as recent graduates' ability to help, as we do not have enough psychologists. The Senate concurred on the bill this afternoon and it has been sent off to the Governor's desk for his signature.

<u>Assembly Bill 7</u> – Requires that Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) become licensed with the state through the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), which will require transparency reports and provide more accountability. The bill prohibits PBMs from penalizing insurers or pharmacists for disclosing generic, cost of purchase or lower cost alternatives.

Assembly Bill 34 – Prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage due to a person having a pre-existing medical condition, refusing to cover services that people need to treat a pre-existing condition, or charging a higher premium based on a person's health status, should the Affordable Care Act be struck down by the courts. We passed similar legislation on the first day on the floor of the 2019-20 legislative session and are passing it again to ensure Wisconsinites with these conditions are protected no matter what happens at the federal level.

"I'm so proud of Wisconsin and how we have come through this pandemic," Rep. Tittl said. "These bills help our friends, families, and neighbors and I'll continue supporting legislation that is in the interest of all Wisconsinites. All three bills received overwhelming bipartisan support.

The 25th Assembly District includes portions of Calumet and Manitowoc Counties.