



State Senator
Rick Gudex

District 18

April 23, 2015

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
From: Sen. Rick Gudex
Re: Senate Bill 84

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 23, 2015

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

From: Rep. Rob Hutton

Re: Senate Bill 84

Testimony of Rep. Rob Hutton in Support of Senate Bill 84

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for giving Senate Bill 84 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 to drive reform in.

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.

This bill simply extends the use of drug formularies to DOC and gives them the ability to develop plans to use alternative, low-cost drugs to serve our inmate population. Along with the reduced prices by establishing and authorizing a "drug formulary", it eliminates the paper work needed when shortages of specific drugs occur. This allows for more time allocated to patients. DOC has indicated their support in our discussions. Further, the program would be readily absorbed by the agency, as the Department of Adult Institutions maintains the committee outlined in the legislation.

This change provides the agency another tool to incorporate innovative practices that allow them to more cost-effectively administer state services. This is a win for our state budget and for Wisconsin taxpayers.