

☞ **07hr_sb0048_AC-PH_pt05**



Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Public Health
(AC-PH)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution)
 - (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Vote Record Committee on Public Health

Date: 5/23/07

Moved by: Black

Seconded by: Schneider

AB _____ SB 48 _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 - Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative J.A. Hines, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leah Vukmir	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joan Ballweg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Terry Moulton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Lee Nerison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Charles Benedict	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sheldon Wasserman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Spencer Black	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



Testimony to
Assembly Committee on Public Health

On
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Presented by
State Senator Judy Robson, 15th District,
In support of SB 48

I am pleased to be a sponsor of Senate Bill 48 which will allow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to participate in Wisconsin's highly successful Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.

Under this program certain volunteer providers of health care services to low-income uninsured persons are considered to be agents of Department of Health and Family Services and, therefore, come under the liability protection of the state.

Since its inception in 1989, our Volunteer Health Care Provider Program has played a significant role, filling in some of our gaps in health care. With the help of this program, physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists and others who volunteer their time have the comfort of knowing that they will be protected from personal liability.

I wish to thank Mike Dow, a pharmacist from my district, for bringing to my attention the fact that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are not currently included in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.

As far as I can determine, this is an oversight, not an intentional exclusion. Therefore, I am pleased to introduce legislation to correct this omission.

Pharmacists and their staff are an integral part of any health care system and their role is growing as prescriptions drugs become one of the cornerstones of 21st century health care. The ability of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to be involved as volunteers will help improve the care we are able to provide to our neediest citizens.

I want to note that Mike Dow's interest in this issue was not merely an academic one. He knows from personal experience how important it is to be able to encourage pharmacists to volunteer their services.

Mike is a volunteer at HealthNet, the free clinic in Janesville. As Carleen Courtney, the clinic's Executive Director explained it, prior to Mike's arrival their volunteer nurses were dispensing drugs from a cramped room. The patients' pill bottles had hand written labels. And the storage shelves for medications were collapsing.

Within a couple of months, Mike was able to secure donated pharmacy shelving, medication storage bins, a working computer and printer. He negotiated a 50% discount on pharmacy software to be used to print bottle labels. He went on to enter all of the clinic's patients into the computer, saving time for the volunteer nurses and provide more accurate information to patients. In short, Mike Dow totally organized the clinic's drug distribution system so that HealthNet now has a modern, fully functional pharmacy.

Having accomplished all this, Mike was able to find a local pharmacist who was willing to volunteer at HealthNet. But that's where they ran into the concern about professional liability.

With passage of this legislation that would no longer be a concern. HealthNet and dozens of other clinics across Wisconsin can have knowledgeable volunteer pharmacists or pharmacy technicians on hand to more fully meet the needs of their uninsured and low-income clients.

Pharmacists make a difference in the healthcare world and giving them the opportunity to volunteer at free clinics is another way to improve healthcare across the state.

In conclusion, I want to express my appreciation to the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin for their support. I would also like to thank Leah Vukmir, the Assembly sponsor of this bill, as well as the 32 other Senators and Representatives -- from both sides of the aisle -- who are co-sponsors of this bill.

I urge the committee to move as quickly as possible so we can bring more volunteer pharmacists and pharmacy technicians into our free clinics.