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Kolste Co-authors Democrats' Health Care Protection Package

Proactive Bills Would Safeguard Wisconsinites from Damaging GOP Healthcare Bill

MADISON - To ensure that all Wisconsinites have health insurance that covers essential preventative care and won't bankrupt them, Representative Deb Kolste (D-Janesville) and several other Democrats joined together to introduce a package of health care bills.

The bills, which comprise the Health Care Protection Package, would guarantee protection for Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions, prohibit annual or lifetime limits, and keep the basic health services known as essential health benefits.

"It is clear that Wisconsin cannot count on Republicans at the federal and state level to improve our health care system," said Rep. Kolste. "A day after the American Health Care Act (AHCA) was passed in the House, Governor Walker indicated his willingness to allow insurance companies to charge Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions more for their coverage."

The health care bills are designed to limit the damage to Wisconsin residents if the U.S. Congress passes the AHCA and President Trump signs it into law, Kolste said.

"We must be prepared at the state level in case this terrible legislation is passed," Kolste said. "This package of bills would protect the state from some of the worst ideas in the AHCA."

The Health Care Protection Package includes:

- Prohibiting lifetime and annual limits under health insurance policies and plans.
- Prohibiting pre-existing condition exclusion and rate setting based on preexisting conditions.
- Requiring coverage and prohibiting cost sharing for preventive services under health insurance policies and plans
- Coverage of certain essential health benefits
- Maintaining access to reimbursements to family planning providers in the Medical Assistance Program

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 1 in 4 Wisconsin adults has a preexisting condition - a total of 852,000 people. An estimated 311,000 Wisconsin residents would lose health care coverage under the AHCA.

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