



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

March 8, 2012

Senator Alberta Darling, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 317 East

Representative Robin Vos, Assembly Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
State Capitol, 309 East

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Vos:

We write to request that you schedule Senate Bill 538 (The BadgerCare Protection Act) for a public hearing and executive session immediately so that both houses have the opportunity to pass the measure before session adjourns March 15.

SB 538 would stop the Department of Health Services from implementing changes to BadgerCare that would result in tens of thousands of Wisconsinites losing state health care coverage. According to DHS, the Medicaid deficit is currently \$17.1 million. The BadgerCare Protection Act would close this gap while protecting health care for tens of thousands of Wisconsin families. Specifically, the bill:

- Prohibits DHS from implementing higher cost sharing requirements and other changes to BadgerCare that will result in tens of thousands of Wisconsin families losing coverage;
- Repeals a new tax loophole created in the state budget that allows large corporations with subsidiaries to retroactively claim business losses to lower their tax liability for up to 20 years, costing state taxpayers about \$40 million annually;
- Takes \$17.1 million from closing the corporate tax loophole to protect BadgerCare and deposits the balance into the general fund to help close the budget deficit; and
- Prohibits DHS from requiring government issued photo IDs as the sole source for verifying state residency for BadgerCare eligibility purposes.

Budgets are all about choices. Unfortunately, the state budget put corporate profits before affordable health care. The BadgerCare Protection Act provides an opportunity to undo that bad choice by protecting affordable health care and restoring some fairness to Wisconsin's tax code.

We urge you to schedule SB 538 for a public hearing and executive session immediately. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JON RICHARDS
State Representative
Assembly District 19

JON ERPENBACH
State Senator
Senate District 27