



Frank Lasee

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Senator Frank Lasee urges Governor Walker to make the right decision on Obamacare

The federal government is pressuring Governor Walker to make a decision by Friday, November 16, whether or not to create a state run Obamacare exchange.

“Yesterday, I urged him to stare down another tough issue and refuse to implement a state run health care exchange because it isn’t in Wisconsin’s best interest, our citizens’ best interest, or our taxpayers’ best interest.” Senator Lasee said.

“A state exchange will not only increase Wisconsin taxpayer’s costs 10’s of millions of dollars, it will add to the federal government’s \$1 trillion annual deficit and our national debt of \$16 trillion and growing, that’s just irresponsible. Washington is borrowing 40 cents of every dollar they spend with no end in sight and that’s irresponsible. Adding this additional burden to Wisconsinites and expecting already overburdened taxpayer’s to pick up the tab is also irresponsible.” Senator Lasee said.

“Patience is the only prudent course of action. Wisconsin should wait to see if Obamacare gets off the ground and if it is an effective system. If it’s as great a program as Obama claims, Wisconsin and everyone else will jump on board; unfortunately, I think we all know better. There is no penalty in not meeting the ‘deadline’ so why dive in to shallow end head first?” Senator Lasee said.

If Wisconsin implements a state exchange, employers will be required to provide insurance for all employees or pay a tax/fine of \$2,000 per employee. This is another burden Wisconsin businesses can avoid by letting the federal government lead implementation of this very unpopular and expensive federal law.

The Supreme Court gave states the option to decline implementing Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion – an option that Wisconsin and all states should exercise. The federal government doesn’t have the money to expand Medicaid, and neither do we. Last budget, Wisconsin had to add more than a billion dollars of new money into Medicaid and implement cost saving measures. Medicaid is already growing exponentially without an expansion. Because of the low reimbursement rates to providers, Medicaid shifts costs and drives up private insurance premiums.

Senator Lasee said, “Now is the time for clear and decisive action, it is not the time to go wobbly. Obamacare is still as unpopular as it is detrimental and over 60% of the population opposes it. If Obamacare is a road Wisconsin is forced to go down, a state run exchange is not the right approach. I urge Governor Walker to do the right thing for Wisconsin; go slow, and wait and see what the federal government does with this very unpopular, bureaucratic, and expensive program.”