



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy,

On January 9, 2017, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker wrote to you to request that you “repeal and replace ObamaCare immediately and send Medicaid funding to the states in the form of a block grant.” We write on behalf of our constituents who are concerned about the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the prospect of block granting the Medicaid program.

Even though Governor Walker and Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature stood in the way of full and effective implementation of the ACA, the ACA has been a success in Wisconsin. The ACA saves lives, prevents insurance company discrimination and abuses, and offers affordable coverage with good benefits to individual workers, small businesses, and people on Medicaid, known in Wisconsin as BadgerCare. The positive effects of the ACA in Wisconsin include:

- 211,000 Wisconsinites have gained coverage since passage of the ACA;
- Insurance companies can no longer discriminate against the 2,489,279 non-elderly Wisconsinites, including 309,519 children, who have some type of pre-existing health condition;
- 224,208 Wisconsinites selected a health plan via the federally-facilitated individual marketplace, and 190,542 of them are receiving financial assistance with the plans;
- 2,142,000 Wisconsinites are free from worrying about lifetime limits on coverage;
- 2,804,258 Wisconsinites with private health insurance gained preventive service coverage with no cost-sharing;
- Wisconsin’s community health centers have received more than \$82 million to expand services;
- Through Fiscal Year 2013, Wisconsin had received \$34,210,714 in grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund;
- 90,303 Wisconsinites with Medicare saved \$94 million in 2015 on prescription drugs because of the ACA’s rebates and discounts for those who fall into the “Donut Hole”;
- 481,012 Wisconsinites with Medicare used one or more free preventive service made available via the ACA in 2014¹; and
- Expanded coverage of mental health and substance-abuse counseling, including for opioid addiction.

¹ <https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts-and-features/state-by-state/how-aca-is-working-for-wisconsin/index.html>

*This link was removed from HHS website after January 20, 2017



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Repealing the ACA would put all of these gains in jeopardy. Replacement plans we have seen thus far from Congressional Republicans and the Congressional Budget Office's analysis of those proposals give us little confidence that those gains will be protected and expanded upon.

Medicaid covers 940,214 Wisconsinites, including 370,391 children (excluding CHIP-funded children), 335,729 parents and adults, and 234,094 Wisconsinites who are elderly, blind or have a disability (EBD). The Wisconsin Department of Health Services projects a 5.3% growth in Wisconsin's annual Medicaid costs.² Medicaid block grants would significantly reduce the federal share of Medicaid costs over time. Governor Walker's advocacy for block granting Medicaid puts Wisconsin taxpayers on the hook for picking up more of the tab, while at the same time imperiling affordable health insurance coverage for almost 1 million Wisconsinites.

Our constituents are rightfully worried about becoming uninsured because of the actions of Congress and the Administration, being subjected to health insurance company abuse, and being unable to afford quality coverage.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach
State Senator
27th Senate District

Jennifer Shilling
Senate Democratic Leader
32nd Senate District

Deb Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson
State Senator
6th Senate District

² <https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/programs/health-policy/ebhpp/events/20170111/HeifetzPresentation.pdf>



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16th Senate District

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State Representative
90th Assembly District

Gordon Hintz
State Representative
54th Assembly District

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District

Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District

Chris Taylor
State Representative
76th Assembly District

Fred Kessler
State Representative
12th Assembly District

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95th Assembly District

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State Senator
26th Senate District

Dana Wachs
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State Representative
91st Assembly District

Melissa Sargent
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48th Assembly District

Terese Berceau
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65th Assembly District

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David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District

Jo Casta Zamarripa
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State Representative
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Dave Considine
Dave Considine
State Representative
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cc: Donald Trump, President, Speaker Paul Ryan, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, Representative Sean Duffy, Representative Glenn Grothman, Representative Mike Gallagher, Representative Ron Kind, Representative Gwen Moore, and Representative Mark Pocan