



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

**REP HEBL ANNOUNCES HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**

MADISON - I have heard from many of my constituents who struggle with the rising cost of health care. Some do not even have basic health care coverage. This is a big problem for too many people and requires a bold solution. I am glad to announce a good solution may be on the horizon.

Last month, State Representatives Curt Gielow and Jon Richards announced a bi-partisan health care reform program called The Wisconsin Health Plan. The plan addresses the three major problems affecting Wisconsin citizens today: the reoccurring deficit in Wisconsin's Medicaid program, the skyrocketing cost of health care, and the growing number of uninsured in our state.

The Wisconsin Health Plan will provide insurance to all Wisconsin residents not covered by Medicare, including the 500,000 Wisconsinites who are currently uninsured. Citizens would have the opportunity to select their own health care plan, including their own doctor and hospital, much like state employees choose their health care.

Under the plan, you will receive a health care purchasing credit which will be used to purchase a health care policy. Each health care policy offered under the program will carry a \$1200 deductible. In addition, an annual \$600 payment will go into a health care savings account health savings account which will be provided to each participant. This health savings account money cuts your deductible in half because it can be used to cover the cost of any approved services you might need under your health care plan. Preventative care, such as cancer screenings and immunizations, is free, so people are encouraged to stay healthy.

Health care plans will be broken down into three tiers under this proposal. You will be automatically enrolled in the first tier. Plans here offer the highest quality service for the lowest cost. Because the majority of customers will be in the first tier, it will encourage health care providers to streamline their services to qualify for this tier,

which will eventually drive down health care costs while encouraging high quality care.

Wisconsin has been an innovator in the past. We've done this with unemployment and worker's compensation. It takes a state like Wisconsin to develop sound social programs like this to benefit all of its citizens. As a member of the Health Care subcommittee, a part of my parties' caucus, I am actively involved in helping develop this plan. Although it is still taking shape, my colleagues and I are excited to move forward in the development of The Wisconsin Health Plan. As we refine the plan we need your insights, ideas, and experiences to make this a plan that will work for Wisconsin.

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