



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

April 19, 2010

To: Members of the Assembly
From: Rachel Currans-Sheehan, Executive Assistant
Re: Passage of SB 484: Badger Care Plus Basic

The interest in enrolling in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for adults without dependent children has been overwhelming. 65,000 residents now have access to affordable health care – many for the first time in years. On October 9th, 2009, the program had to suspend program enrollment and enacted a statewide waitlist to comply with budget neutrality requirements.

Thousands of citizen's are still in dire need of health care access. **As of April 19th, there are more than 39,000 low-income Wisconsin residents on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list and hundreds of new names are added every week.**

BadgerCare Plus Basic is a bridge for many people waiting for a spot in the Core Plan or for full implementation of the national health care reforms – at no cost to taxpayers.

While national health care reform offers many immediate reforms, enrollees in BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and those on the waiting list would not move onto BadgerCare Plus or the health insurance exchange until 2014.

Nationally, medical bankruptcies are also on the rise. Illness and medical bills were linked to at least 62.1% of all personal bankruptcies in 2007. Based on the current bankruptcy filing rate, medical bankruptcies are expected to reach about 1.4 million during 2009.

Passage of BadgerCare Plus Basic (SB 484) is Very Important

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan is a self-funded plan that focuses on providing Core Plan waitlist members with access to vital, cost-effective primary and preventive care.

The Basic Plan benefit package provides coverage of last resort, cost-effective primary and preventive care, with limited hospitalization. Basic Plan benefits would be more restrictive than Core Plan benefits and provided on a fee-for-service basis at Medicaid rates by Medicaid Certified Providers.

BadgerCare Basic is entirely self-funded through a **\$130 per month premium**, paid for by those who use it. BadgerCare Basic would have no cost to taxpayers.

Wisconsin will capitalize on current BadgerCare Plus program infrastructure to reduce administrative overhead and help ensure the Basic Plan as a no cost option for the State. This will also allow the Basic Plan to be implemented quickly to respond to the great need and interest of the adults without dependent children population.