

January 26, 2017

Speaker Paul Ryan H-232 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan:

We are writing to express our vehement opposition to your plans to eliminate Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program. On behalf of the 50,000 Wisconsinites who are enrolled in Medicaid and receive basic healthcare services from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI), including 6,000 people from within your own district, please reconsider and reverse your dangerous and irresponsible decision which will jeopardize the health and lives of thousands of Wisconsinites.

Almost equally concerning to your actual plans to defund Planned Parenthood are the faulty justifications for your decision. Not only are you stopping women from seeing the trusted health care provider of their choosing, but you are offering false promises of hope that they will be able to receive the same high quality, affordable care elsewhere. We know firsthand that this will not happen. When Governor Walker took away state funds for PPWI's preventive health services and five rural health centers were forced to close, the same promises were made to Wisconsin women. Yet no new providers have stepped in to fill the void in those communities. Furthermore, in 73 percent of the counties that PPWI serves, there is not a provider who has the capacity to absorb Planned Parenthood's patients.

There is a reason 60,000 patients trust PPWI to provide them with health care – they provide quality, affordable services in communities with high health care needs. Under your proposal to prevent Medicaid patients from accessing Planned Parenthood, thousands of Wisconsinites will be left without needed health care. Over 54 percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in health professional shortage areas, rural or medically underserved areas.

Do not continue to substitute your judgement for the judgement of Wisconsin women in making their own private healthcare decisions. Let's be clear – we are talking about cervical cancer screenings, clinical breast exams, testing for sexually transmitted infections and physical exams. As you know, no public monies can be used for abortion services. Should you decide to move forward with your plans to eliminate Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid provider, Wisconsin women will surely suffer significant harm, some will even die.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cory Mason

State Representative 66th Assembly District Debra Kolste

State Representative 44th Assembly District **Bob Wirch**

State Senator

22nd Senate District

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State Representative 65th Assembly District Janis Ringhand

State Senator 15th Senate District Peter Barca

Assembly Minority Leader 64th Assembly District

Chris Taylor

State Representative 76th Assembly District

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State Representative 47th Assembly District Terese Berceau

State Representative 77th Assembly District

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State Representative 95th Assembly District Dave Considing

State Representative 81st Assembly District David Bowen

State Representative 10th Assembly District

Jon Erpendach State Senator 27th Senate District

Eric Genrich State Representative 90th Assembly District

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Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Dave HansenState Senator
30th Senate District

Gary Hebl^yState Representative
46th Assembly District

State Representative 79th Assembly District

State Representative 54th Assembly District

LaTenya Johnson State Senator 6th Senate District

Chris LarsonState Senator
7th Senate District

Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District

Sondy Pope State Representative 80th Assembly District

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
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State Senator
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Melissa Sargent State Representative 48th Assembly District Katrina Shankland

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Mark Springer

Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District

Amanda Stuck
State Representative
57th Assembly District

Lisa SubeckState Representative
78th Assembly District

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Josh Zepnick State Representative 9th Assembly District

Kathleen Vinehout State Senator 31st Senate District Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District