



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 13, 2025

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510
VIA EMAIL

Senator Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Bryan Steil
1526 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Mark Pocan
1026 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Derrick Van
Orden
1513 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congresswoman Gwen
Moore
2252 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Scott
Fitzgerald
2444 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Glenn
Grothman
1211 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Tom Tiffany
451 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

Congressman Tony Wied
424 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515
VIA EMAIL

To the Honorable Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

We urge you to take bi-partisan action to oppose unprecedented cuts to Medicaid (MA), which would negatively affect millions of Wisconsin residents – urban and rural, Republican and Democrat, young and old.

While the final shape and size of funding reductions may not yet be apparent, the impact for the people we represent of a change of the magnitude being discussed (\$2.3 trillion)¹ is abundantly clear: rural hospitals will close, seniors will be evicted from nursing homes, people with disabilities will be institutionalized instead of living in cost-effective community settings, and children will languish on waiting lists for lifesaving care.

In fact, Wisconsin's rural communities and populations will bear the brunt of these cuts. In 27 rural counties across northern and central Wisconsin, the share of children on Medicaid is higher than the state average. In most counties in northern Wisconsin, more than a third of children are

¹ Politico, 1/10/2025, www.politico.com/news/2025/01/10/spending-cuts-house-gop-reconciliation-medicaid-00197541

enrolled in Medicaid.² At many rural hospitals and clinics, Medicaid provides insurance for the majority of patients.

Beyond its critical functions as a lifesaving program that provides access to necessary services to 1.2 million Wisconsinites, Medicaid is a workforce program. The families and individuals who utilize MA employ service providers and pay their wages. They use small businesses to provide an array of services, such as transportation. Many people with disabilities who qualify for MA also work in community jobs, earning wages and creating positive economic impacts.

Recent surveys show that 81% of Americans oppose cutting Medicaid and 71% say Medicaid should continue in its current form.³ Under 2017 Wisconsin Act 370, the legislature has the responsibility to oversee and authorize MA spending and changes in our state. That means that state legislators cannot avoid accountability for the disruption that massive cuts would create to this program that is fundamental to so many lives.

We cite the aforementioned issues – the disproportionate effect of cuts on rural communities and populations, the positive workforce effects, the broad support for MA, and the responsibility of state legislators for the program – because those are often overlooked in discussions about MA. It is a complex program that has been improving and saving lives for 60 years.

But ultimately, at the heart of the matter, is the unspeakable human toll cuts of this size would have on our fellow Wisconsinites. They are elderly people, veterans, children and adults with disabilities, parents and families who will suffer – there is no other word for it – because of a decision we choose to make.

We are hopeful that through your thoughtful and collaborative bi-partisan efforts, disastrous cuts to Medicaid will not come to pass. Thank you for your public service. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions or to discuss this further.

Signed,



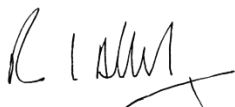
Senator Melissa Ratcliff
16th Senate District



Representative Joan Fitzgerald
46th Assembly District



Representative Andrew Hysell
48th Assembly District



Representative Randy Udell
47th Assembly District



Representative Ann Roe
44th Assembly District



Representative Angelito Tenorio
14th Assembly District



Senator Dianne Hesselbein
27th Senate District



Representative Karen Kirsch
7th Assembly District



Senator Dora Drake
4th Senate District

² Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, Medicaid Coverage in Metro and Small/Town Rural Counties, 2023 ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/01/14/medicaid-coverage-in-metro-and-small-town-rural-counties-2023/

³ Navigator, 1/23/2025, Majority of Americans Oppose Cuts to Social Security and Medicare, www.navigatorresearch.org/a-majority-of-americans-oppose-cuts-to-social-security-and-medicare; Kaiser Family Foundation, 6/4/2024, www.kff.org/medicaid/poll-finding/public-opinion-on-the-future-of-medicaid-kff-medicaid-unwinding-kff-health-tracking-poll/



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

Senator Sarah Keyeski
14th Senate District

Representative Greta Neubauer
66th Assembly District

Representative Lori Palmeri
54th Assembly District

Senator Kelda Roys
26th Senate District

Representative Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District

Representative Margaret Arney
18th Assembly District

Senator Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District

Representative Darrin Madison
10th Assembly District

Representative Sylvia Ortiz-Velez
8th Assembly District

Representative Alex Joers
81st Assembly District

Representative Sequanna Taylor
11th Assembly District

Representative Shelia Stubbs
78th Assembly District

Representative Vincent Miresse
71st Assembly District

Representative Ryan Clancy
19th Assembly District

Senator Chris Larson
Senate District 7

Senator Bob Wirth
22nd Senate District

Representative Moore Omokunde
17th Assembly District

Representative Rivera-Wagner
90th Assembly District

Senator Brad Pfaff
32nd Senate District

Senator Jodi Habush-Sinykin
8th Senate District

Senator Kris Dassler-Alfheim
18th Senate District

Representative Mike Bare
80th Assembly District

Representative Lisa Subeck
79th Assembly District

Representative Ben DeSmidt
65th Assembly District

Representative Jodi Emerson
91st Assembly District

Representative Francesca Hong
76th Assembly District

Senator Jamie Wall
30th Senate District

Senator Mark Spreitzer
15th Senate District

Representative Maureen McCarville
42nd Assembly District

Representative Brienne Brown
43rd Assembly District

Representative Kalen Haywood
16th Assembly District

Representative Karen DeSanto
40th Assembly District

Representative Jill Billings
95th Assembly District

Representative Jenna Jacobson
50th Assembly District

Representative Clinton Anderson
45th Assembly District

Senator Jeff Smith
31st Senate District

Senator LaTonya Johnson
6th Senate District

Representative Robyn Vining
14th Assembly District

Representative Angela Stroud
73rd Assembly District

Representative Tara Johnson
96th Assembly District

Representative Renuka Mayadev
77th Assembly District

Representative Angelina Cruz
62nd Assembly District

Representative Russel Goodwin
12th Assembly District

Representative Tip McGuire
64th Assembly District

Representative Deb Andraca
23rd Assembly District

Representative Christian Phelps
93rd Assembly District

Representative Priscilla Prado
9th Assembly District

Representative Ryan Spaude
89th Assembly District

Representative Lee Snodgrass
52nd Assembly District

Representative Joe Sheehan
26th Assembly District

Representative Steve Doyle
94th Assembly District