



**BRAD PFAFF**  
**STATE SENATOR**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 1, 2023

**Contact:** Sen. Pfaff

608.266.5490

**Expand BadgerCare Now**

No one should worry about whether they can access health care simply because they live in Wisconsin. Too often though, residents of western Wisconsin experience costly medical care and high prescription drug prices that strain their household budgets.

It doesn't have to be this way. There are simple, straightforward solutions to reduce the cost of health care for Wisconsinites while expanding access to care.

I'm a proud cosponsor of a bill this session which would extend coverage of postpartum care under Medicaid to a full year. Extending coverage of postpartum care under Medicaid is a no-brainer.

Support for mothers and their newborns is crucial, especially in the first year. Unfortunately, the United States has consistently had the highest maternal mortality rate for years compared to similar countries. Wisconsin is no stranger to these struggles.

We have an opportunity to improve maternal health by passing this bill, but the most cost-effective solution to support maternal health and the health of all Wisconsinites is to finally join the 40 states that have expanded Medicaid in a bipartisan manner.

Full Medicaid expansion would lower the cost of care for Wisconsinites. Research has shown that in states that have fully expanded Medicaid, health care premiums have been lowered.

This expansion of BadgerCare would save our state money. It is estimated that the increased federal dollars, made possible through expansion, would save Wisconsin \$1.6 billion over the two-year budget biennium.

No one should play partisan political games with your health care. This is about going to the doctor for a routine check-up. This is about supporting mothers and their newborns. This is about being able to afford insulin and other essential prescription drugs.

Full Medicaid expansion would extend access to care to nearly 90,000 additional people in Wisconsin. These are our friends; these are our neighbors.

The people of Wisconsin are better off when they can access the health care they need now, which will prevent health crises later. Without routine medical care and access to necessary prescription drugs, the cost of health care will only rise.

This makes sense for both health care and our economy. Wisconsin will save money, while Wisconsinites will have greater access to the care they need.

Let's expand BadgerCare now, and make health care more affordable in Wisconsin.

###

*Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.*