

WisDems: Counting down the ways Vukmir sold out Wisconsin

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#6. Vukmir Sold Out Wisconsin On Mental Health Care And Substance Abuse Coverage

Vukmir has repeatedly sided with insurance companies over Wisconsinites, blocking and voting against expanded coverage for mental health care and substance abuse treatments

MADISON — With six days until Election Day, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin is continuing to count down examples from **Republican U.S. Senate candidate Leah Vukmir's** 16-year record of selling out Wisconsinites to benefit her powerful insurance company and special interest backers.

#6. Vukmir Sold Out Wisconsin On Mental Health Care And Substance Abuse Coverage

As a member of Wisconsin's state legislature, Leah Vukmir has repeatedly opposed and blocked legislation that would have required insurance companies to expand coverage for Wisconsinites' mental health and substance abuse treatments — siding with insurance and business advocacy groups over Wisconsinites in need of health care coverage.

- **Vukmir sided with insurance companies against expanding mental health**

coverage for prescription drugs and diagnostic testing — Leah Vukmir was [one of just ten representatives](#) to oppose 2004 Senate Bill 71, mental health parity legislation that expanded coverage by prohibiting insurance companies from including prescription drug and diagnostic testing in coverage limits.

- The bill was supported by Republicans and Democrats in both chambers, and [endorsed by a wide range of health care, mental health, disability rights, and advocacy groups](#) that supported the bill and lobbied for its passage.
- In opposing the bill, [Vukmir aligned herself with powerful insurance companies](#) and business advocacy groups.
- **Vukmir blocked three bills that would have expanded mental health coverage** — During the 2007-2008 biennial, Leah Vukmir, as chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform, blocked at least three mental health and substance abuse coverage expansion bills to die in her committee, refusing to even hold a public hearing for two of the three measures.
 - **2007 Assembly Bill 463** — As committee chair, Vukmir [refused to hold a vote on 2007 Assembly Bill 463](#), blocking the measure that would have required health insurance companies to expand coverage to include a broader range of treatments for “[outpatient treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problems.](#)”
 - **2007 Senate Bill 246** — As committee chair, Vukmir [refused to hold a public hearing or vote on 2007 Senate Bill 246](#), blocking the bipartisan, Senate-passed measure that would have broadened requirements that insurance companies offer coverage for “[the services of clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors for the outpatient treatment of nervous and mental disorders and alcoholism and other drug abuse problem.](#)”
 - **2007 Assembly Bill 922** — As committee chair, Vukmir [refused to hold a public hearing or vote on 2007 Assembly Bill 922](#), blocking the measure that would have expanded coverage requirements for “[at least one annual physical examination to](#)

[cover at least one annual screening for a covered individual to determine the need for treatment of mental health and substance abuse problems and for a female covered under the plan at least one screening during a pregnancy for prepartum depression.](#)”

- **Vukmir fought and voted against a bill to require that insurance companies cover treatments for mental health and substance abuse as they would cover treatments for other conditions.** — During the 2009-2010 biennial, Leah Vukmir [voted against 2009 Senate Bill 362](#), a bipartisan measure to require that insurance companies cover mental health and substance abuse treatments as comprehensively as they would treatments for other conditions.
 - The bill was supported by Republicans and Democrats, [as well as by medical professionals and disability rights advocates](#).
 - In opposing the measure, Vukmir aligned herself with business advocacy groups that lobbied against the bill, [arguing](#) that a coverage expansion was too expensive.

In early October, Wisconsin mental health advocates held a conference call to condemn Vukmir’s record of opposing mental health care coverage, decrying it as “shameful,” wrong, and “putting powerful corporate interests over everyday Wisconsinites.” Listen to the full call [here](#).

Counting Down Ten Ways Vukmir Has Sold Out Wisconsin:

#10. [Vukmir Backs Earned Benefit Cuts To Offset Tax Breaks For The Top 1%](#)

#9. [Vukmir Sold Out Wisconsin Seniors On Nursing Home Abuse](#)

#8. [Vukmir Sided With Special Interests Over Asbestos Victims — Including Veterans And Working People](#)

#7. [Vukmir Sold Out Wisconsin Seniors On Alzheimer’s Funding And SeniorCare](#)