

Sen. Erpenbach: Statement on Gov. Walker's re-election health care plan

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“Even though last year he fought for repeal, in his re-election campaign now Governor Walker has finally decided to join most Americans and support the Affordable Care Act. Democrats in Wisconsin have always worked to strengthen our health care system and now Governor Walker finally joins us in that fight. Now it's time for Governor Walker to bring our Federal taxpayer dollars back to Wisconsin and expand BadgerCare – our state has now lost over \$1 billion because of Governor Walker's refusal to expand BadgerCare.”

“These newly loved Democratic plans are a drop in the bucket compared to what accepting funds to expand BagerCare could do for the people of this state. Finally, without a CHIP extension, Wisconsin will have a huge hole in our Medicaid budget so maybe this plan should include a Governor Walker guarantee Congress will extend CHIP for the children of this state.”

On Reinsurance funds: “Reinsurance is a tool that has been used by other states including Minnesota who funded \$500 million. Governor Walker's plan is less than half of what Minnesota invested which begs the question, is it really enough to lower the premium for participants?”

On \$50 million in Medicaid savings – “The Medicaid report just came out and counts on Congress renewing CHIP. I wish Governor Walker could waive his magic wand to make Congress renew CHIP for the children of Wisconsin, where is that promise? Without it we will have a huge hole in our Medicaid budget.”

On SeniorCare Medicare Part D exemption permanent - “That’s up to the Federal government - the current SeniorCare extension was just filed (down to the wire). Seniors have basically had to beg Governor Walker to renew it for the past ten years. Again - glad he is finally willing to commit to always renewing the SeniorCare waiver - something he has NEVER been willing to do before.”

On the preexisting conditions bill - “I am curious why Governor Walker did not like this proposal when it was an Erpenbach/Riemer proposal. Clearly coverage for preexisting conditions is - and has always been - a huge concern for the people of Wisconsin. Governor Walker did not speak up when President Donald Trump and Congress tried to repeal ObamaCare - it is interesting that he is speaking up now.”