

Citizen Action of Wisconsin: Health advocates in 9 Wisconsin cities urge lawmakers to expand BadgerCare

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Full Legislature has the opportunity this week to override disastrous Finance Committee rejection of federal Medicaid expansion

Statewide: A day before the full Legislature begins voting on the state budget, Citizen Action members led a statewide health care day of action urging lawmakers to accept federal Medicaid money to expand Wisconsin's popular BadgerCare program. Citizen Action members also trekked to Madison from across the state to lobby their legislators one last time before the big votes in the Assembly and Senate.

Showing the breadth of public support, there were twelve BadgerCare expansion events in nine cities, including Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Minocqua, Ladysmith, Wausau, Brown Deer, and Madison.

Over 80,000 working people in Wisconsin living just above the poverty line are denied access to affordable health coverage through no fault of their own. They hold jobs that do not provide affordable health coverage, the kind of jobs that have grown the fastest since the Great Recession, in retail, home care, restaurants, child care, agriculture, and many other professions.

"It's time for leadership of the Legislature to stop playing politics with the health of working Wisconsinites, listen to the people, and work with Governor Evers to expand BadgerCare," said Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of

Wisconsin. “If the budget that emerges this week does not include the federal Medicaid expansion dollars, Governor Evers will be justified in using his veto pen to force Republicans to the table to work out a budget that serves the interests of the people of Wisconsin.”