

Republicans defy Wisconsin voters

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MADISON – Despite overwhelming public support for accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid, Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee rejected the pillar policy of Governor Tony Evers state budget proposal. Under Gov. Tony Evers' proposal, the state would save \$324.5 million and bring in \$1.6 billion in federal funds.

“Obstructionist Republicans are doing everything in their power to limit access to affordable health coverage,” said Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse). “It is foolish to reject money that can be used to address the opioid epidemic, improve access to dental and mental health care, and increase funding for nursing home and dementia care specialists. Republican politicians would rather side with wealthy insurance executives than ensure affordable health coverage in our communities. Wisconsin families deserve better.”

States that have accepted federal dollars to expand Medicaid saw positive impacts on their economies including: an increase in providers in rural areas, reductions in uncompensated care, reductions in medical debt, and better reimbursement rates to attract and retain medical professionals. Additionally, a recent [study](#) showed that states that expanded Medicaid saw a significant reduction in infant mortality rates. In the latest [Marquette Law Poll](#), 70% of Wisconsin residents approve of accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid.