

# Opportunity Wisconsin: American Rescue Plan provides “Make or Break” relief for Wisconsinites

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**MADISON, Wis.**— As millions more Wisconsinites become eligible for the COVID vaccine, the same week Americans celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, [Opportunity Wisconsin](#) and [Protect Our Care Wisconsin](#) sat down with two Badger State physicians on [Facebook LIVE](#) to discuss the progress being made in the fight against the pandemic and how the American Rescue Plan is making healthcare more affordable and accessible.

**Dr. Julia Kyle, a pediatric and primary care physician at Confluence Healthcare in Eau Claire,** talked about the healthcare savings many of her patients will see thanks to the American Rescue Plan: *“It’s a make or break. That may be a month’s rent payment. That’s food for a couple of months. For a diabetic, that’s a couple months of insulin.”*

Wisconsinites earning up to 150% of the federal poverty level can now access health care coverage with \$0 premiums. Wisconsin workers on unemployment insurance at any point in 2021 will also have access to care for \$0. Many other families will see their monthly insurance premium payments drop due to a new 8.5% cap on premium prices. For example, a 60-year-old couple with a household income of \$75,000 could save \$1,389 in monthly premiums.

**[Dr. Rachel Hughes, a Madison area emergency physician and Opportunity Wisconsin steering committee member,](#)** questioned how Senator Ron Johnson could claim to be focused on our economy while voting against the American Rescue Plan, *“I don’t think anyone who’s opposed to this legislation could potentially be for the economy and the real economic situation Wisconsinites are*

*facing right now...When we're all suffering and we're all dealing with this horrible healthcare emergency, it's a very important time to look at the impact of healthcare on our economy."*

In 2017, [Senator Johnson helped lead an effort in the Senate](#) to strip healthcare coverage away from Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions which could now include people who survived the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this month, Senator Johnson [voted against the American Rescue Plan](#) which reduces healthcare costs.