

Rep. Udell: Legislative Democrats propose BadgerCare Public Option

Posted on Thursday, Mar 5, 2026

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MADISON, Wis. — This week, Legislative Democrats introduced the BadgerCare Public Option, a bill to create a new affordable healthcare plan through Wisconsin's existing Medicaid program.

Representative Randy Udell (D-47th District) released the following statement:

“Everyone deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare. Because federal Republicans allowed the Affordable Care Act subsidies to expire, many Wisconsinites’ health insurance costs have more than doubled. As a result, Wisconsin saw nearly 20,000 fewer people sign up to receive health coverage under the ACA this year.

“Our BadgerCare Public Option would allow Wisconsin residents, regardless of income, to receive affordable, comprehensive healthcare through BadgerCare. It would also create a new Basic Health Plan: a high-quality, stable option available to those making under 200% of the federal poverty line. Finally, this bill enables small businesses and non-profits to offer BadgerCare coverage to their employees through a new state-based health insurance exchange.

“While federal Republicans dismantle public services to fund their wars, I am proud to fight for real solutions to make healthcare in Wisconsin more accessible and affordable.”