



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy,

On January 9, 2017, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker wrote to you to request that you “repeal and replace ObamaCare immediately and send Medicaid funding to the states in the form of a block grant.” We write on behalf of our constituents who are concerned about the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the prospect of block granting the Medicaid program.

Even though Governor Walker and Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature stood in the way of full and effective implementation of the ACA, the ACA has been a success in Wisconsin. The ACA saves lives, prevents insurance company discrimination and abuses, and offers affordable coverage with good benefits to individual workers, small businesses, and people on Medicaid, known in Wisconsin as BadgerCare. The positive effects of the ACA in Wisconsin include:

- 211,000 Wisconsinites have gained coverage since passage of the ACA;
- Insurance companies can no longer discriminate against the 2,489,279 non-elderly Wisconsinites, including 309,519 children, who have some type of pre-existing health condition;
- 224,208 Wisconsinites selected a health plan via the federally-facilitated individual marketplace, and 190,542 of them are receiving financial assistance with the plans;
- 2,142,000 Wisconsinites are free from worrying about lifetime limits on coverage;
- 2,804,258 Wisconsinites with private health insurance gained preventive service coverage with no cost-sharing;
- Wisconsin’s community health centers have received more than \$82 million to expand services;
- Through Fiscal Year 2013, Wisconsin had received \$34,210,714 in grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund;
- 90,303 Wisconsinites with Medicare saved \$94 million in 2015 on prescription drugs because of the ACA’s rebates and discounts for those who fall into the “Donut Hole”;
- 481,012 Wisconsinites with Medicare used one or more free preventive service made available via the ACA in 2014<sup>1</sup>; and
- Expanded coverage of mental health and substance-abuse counseling, including for opioid addiction.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts-and-features/state-by-state/how-aca-is-working-for-wisconsin/index.html>

\*This link was removed from HHS website after January 20, 2017



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Repealing the ACA would put all of these gains in jeopardy. Replacement plans we have seen thus far from Congressional Republicans and the Congressional Budget Office's analysis of those proposals give us little confidence that those gains will be protected and expanded upon.

Medicaid covers 940,214 Wisconsinites, including 370,391 children (excluding CHIP-funded children), 335,729 parents and adults, and 234,094 Wisconsinites who are elderly, blind or have a disability (EBD). The Wisconsin Department of Health Services projects a 5.3% growth in Wisconsin's annual Medicaid costs.<sup>2</sup> Medicaid block grants would significantly reduce the federal share of Medicaid costs over time. Governor Walker's advocacy for block granting Medicaid puts Wisconsin taxpayers on the hook for picking up more of the tab, while at the same time imperiling affordable health insurance coverage for almost 1 million Wisconsinites.

Our constituents are rightfully worried about becoming uninsured because of the actions of Congress and the Administration, being subjected to health insurance company abuse, and being unable to afford quality coverage.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riemer  
State Representative  
7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach  
State Senator  
27<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Jennifer Shilling  
Senate Democratic Leader  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

Deb Kolste  
State Representative  
44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson  
State Senator  
6<sup>th</sup> Senate District

<sup>2</sup> <https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/programs/health-policy/ebhpp/events/20170111/HeifetzPresentation.pdf>



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Dianne Hesselbein  
State Representative  
79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mark Spreitzer  
State Representative  
45<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Mark Miller  
State Senator  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Eric Genrich  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Gordon Hintz  
State Representative  
54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Katrina Shankland  
State Representative  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Evan Goyke  
State Representative  
18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Sondy Pope  
State Representative  
80<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Tim Carpenter  
State Senator  
3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Chris Taylor  
State Representative  
76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Fred Kessler  
State Representative  
12<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

David Crowley  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Chris Larson  
State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Lisa Subeck  
State Representative  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Jimmy Anderson  
State Representative  
47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



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*Gary Hebl*  
Gary Hebl  
State Representative  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Jill Billings*  
Jill Billings  
State Representative  
95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Fred A. Risser*  
Fred Risser  
State Senator  
26<sup>th</sup> Senate District

*Dana Wachs*  
Dana Wachs  
State Representative  
91<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

*Melissa Sargent*  
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State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Terese Berceau*  
Terese Berceau  
State Representative  
77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Don Vruwink*  
Don Vruwink  
State Representative  
43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District

*Tod Ohnstad*  
Tod Ohnstad  
State Representative  
65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Janis Ringhand*  
Janis Ringhand  
State Senator  
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*Kathleen Vinehout*  
Kathleen Vinehout  
State Senator  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District

*Jason Fields*  
Jason Fields  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Jonathan Brostoff*  
Jonathan Brostoff  
State Representative  
19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*David Bowen*  
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State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Jo Casta Zamarripa*  
Jo Casta Zamarripa  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Dave Considine*  
Dave Considine  
State Representative  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

cc: Donald Trump, President, Speaker Paul Ryan, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, Representative Sean Duffy, Representative Glenn Grothman, Representative Mike Gallagher, Representative Ron Kind, Representative Gwen Moore, and Representative Mark Pocan