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REPUBLICANS ANNOUNCE ANOTHER ATTACK ON PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Wisconsin Media Must Hold Governor Walker Accountable

MADISON – Yesterday, the Trump Administration announced new guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Under the guidelines, states could apply for a waiver to sell plans which do not cover pre-existing conditions, and provide significantly less protections than ACA-compliant plans. Health care experts have warned this would create parallel insurance markets: one for younger, healthy people, and one for those with pre-existing conditions. Under the plan, states could enact a waiver without legislative approval. Previously, plans had to be approved by the legislature for the federal government to approve the waiver. Assembly Democratic Leader Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) released the following statement on the CMS guidance:

***“Governor Walker has another opportunity to actually demonstrate his support for pre-existing conditions. The Wisconsin media must ask Governor Walker immediately whether or not he will be applying for this waiver. Yes or no. Too often, news outlets have reported the Governor’s talking points on pre-existing conditions, but when it comes to any health care policy, the media should report what Republicans do, not desperate promises in the midst of a campaign.*”**

***“This waiver would leave those with pre-existing conditions with no affordable option. It’s clear the intent of this guidance is to allow extreme, right-wing governors like Scott Walker to circumvent the consumer protections provided by the ACA. Those who need it most, would have health insurance in name only.”*”**

Over the past two years, Governor Walker has repeatedly attempted to remove, or weaken, pre-existing condition protections established under the Affordable Care Act.

- Supported repeal of the Affordable Care Act passed by the United States Senate in 2017.
- Supported Wisconsin State Assembly Bill 365 (as amended) which would have led to individuals with pre-existing conditions being charged more if they lacked continuous coverage (Assembly Republicans lifted language from federal repeal efforts which ultimately failed due to the lack of adequate protections for those with pre-existing conditions).
- In February 2018, Governor Walker authorized Wisconsin to join the lawsuit striking down the ACA.

Despite a clear record of opposing pre-existing condition protections, the Governor continues his recent, disingenuous embrace of this key ACA provision.

***“Over the course of the last year, Republicans have been openly lying about their support for covering pre-existing conditions. This announcement by the Trump Administration is the most recent example in a pattern of policies intended to take affordable health care away from millions of Americans.”*”**

Since the Affordable Care Act went into effect, Wisconsin has seen its uninsured rate drop significantly. Approximately 200,000 Wisconsinites rely on the ACA for health care each year. Nationally, almost 20 million people have gained access to health care since 2010 from the ACA.

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