



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE STAUSH GRUSZYNSKI

REPRESENTING THE CITY OF GREEN BAY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Republican's Rejection of \$1.6 Billion in Federal Medicaid Expansion Funds is Fiscally Irresponsible and Morally Bankrupt**

GREEN BAY – State Representative Staush Gruszynski (D-Green Bay) expressed his disappointment in the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee's decision to strip Medicaid expansion from Governor Tony Evers 2019-2021 State Budget:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Republican majority has decided to ignore the will of the people by rejecting \$1.6 billion in federal funds that could expand quality, affordable health care to 82,000 Wisconsin residents while saving our state over \$324 million dollars," Gruszynski said. "Medicaid expansion would provide health care coverage to an estimated 3,360 Brown County residents living near the poverty line. These are individuals making \$16,753 a year or families of four struggling to make ends meet on \$34,638 per year. The Governor's plan would also reinvest that \$324 million in savings in programs that benefit Wisconsin residents across the income spectrum by increasing access to care for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, expanding dental care, and improving behavioral and mental health."

"Medicaid expansion is the number one issue that citizens have brought up at public hearings, because accepting these funds is a common sense move. We paid our taxes last month, and now we have a chance to bring over \$1.6 billion dollars back to Wisconsin, but Republicans would rather leave our tax dollars on the table in Washington D.C. than work with Governor Evers to provide health care to struggling families. Of the 36 states that have expanded Medicaid, 17 are traditionally conservative states. This is not a red state or blue state issue, it's a moral issue, and I will continue to fight alongside Governor Evers to expand this vital program in our state."

The latest Marquette Law Poll showed that 70% of Wisconsinites support accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid.

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