



For Immediate Release

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**Contact: Paul Sickel, Political Director
(414) 520-1752, pauls@seiuwi.org**

SEIU WI Declares the Joint Finance budget is incomplete without Medicaid Expansion

MADISON, WI – The final budget approved by the Joint Finance Committee is missing the crucial component of Medicaid Expansion. This rejects up to \$1.6 billion in Federal funds which could help insure 82,000 Wisconsinites, prevent the closure of more long-term care facilities, shore up hospitals that serve poor and rural communities and boost wages for front-line caregivers.

President Ramon Argandona issued the following statement calling on the full legislature to reject the current budget as proposed:

“There is a crisis in long-term care in Wisconsin. Very low wages, dangerous working conditions and proposed cuts in training are making the profession less appealing and leading to a shortage of workers. By not expanding Medicaid we are leaving \$1.6 billion in funds that could fill many of the gaps which make quality health care unaffordable and unsustainable for the future.”

“Last year Wisconsin voters chose a new approach. Instead of fighting long-decided ideological battles over Obamacare, the voters spoke clearly that they wanted WI to use every tool available to adequately fund the state’s healthcare system. Gov. Evers heard the voters and correctly called for Medicaid Expansion in his 2019- 21 budget proposal. By removing Medicaid expansion Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee are ignoring the will of the people and they need to hear from us today.”

*“Our members should contact their legislators and demand a “do over” with a budget that includes Medicaid expansion. That is the first step to addressing the crisis in long-term care. **They can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.**”*

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