



Frank Lasee

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



November 12, 2012

Dear Governor Walker,

Implementing a Wisconsin Obamacare exchange is not in Wisconsin's best interest, our citizen's best interest, or our taxpayer's best interest. An Obamacare state exchange will cost our state taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in additional taxes, increasing the tax burden on our already overburdened citizens. A state exchange, because of new subsidies not available with a federal exchange, will add to the federal government's \$1 trillion annual deficit and our national debt of \$16 trillion and growing.

Like it or not, the federal government will control many aspects of any state exchange. It is in our citizens' best interest to take a wait and see approach, and find out what the federal exchange looks like before we act, provided they come up with the money and are able to build one that works.

Wisconsin should not implement a state exchange, if we do then our employers will be required to provide insurance for all employees or pay a tax/fine of \$2,000 per employee. This will be another burden on our businesses that can be avoided by letting the federal government lead implementation of this very unpopular and expensive federal law.

While the national deficit and debt are federal issues, they are also state issues, because ultimately that debt falls on all of us. Each and every man, woman, and child in our state, and the rest of the country, will at some point be required to pay this back or at least pay the interest. Your administration should not cooperate by creating more subsidies for more citizens at a time when our country is grossly overspending. In Washington, they are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar they spend with no end in sight. Currently, there are no appropriations in our state or national budget for a new health insurance exchange. If the federal government is in charge of the exchange, Wisconsin will at least avoid additional expenses. There is a real possibility the federal government will have difficulty or not be able to appropriate the additional money needed to make an exchange happen.

Internet based free market health insurance exchanges exist in the real world without any government subsidies, tax dollars, or government control. More than two million people have purchased health insurance through eHealthInsurance.com and there is already robust competition among free market health insurance exchanges including HealthCare.com, IndividualHealthQuotes.com, HealthInsuranceSort.com, and others.

The Supreme Court gave states the option to decline implementing Obamacare's Medicaid expansion – an option all states should exercise. I urge you to respectfully decline this additional expensive expansion of Medicaid. I remind you that we added more than \$1 billion to our Medicaid budget last biennium while instituting a variety of cost savings measures.

The federal government doesn't have the money to expand Medicaid, nor does Wisconsin. If Wisconsin and all other states decline implementation, federal deficits will shrink by another \$900 billion over the next few years.

Now is not the time to go wobbly; clear and decisive action is required. Obamacare is still as unpopular as it is detrimental and over 60% of the population opposes it. Many states are reaffirming their opposition to both implementing exchanges and expanding Medicaid now that the election is over.

The health care law doesn't require states to create an exchange; taking an unhurried position now does not preclude us from taking action in the future. I urge patience in creating a state government health insurance exchange because it's in our citizen's best interest to wait.

Governor Walker, please do what is right concerning this very important issue. I urge you to wait on both Medicaid expansion and a state sponsored, federal government controlled government health insurance exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Lasee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Lasee
Wisconsin State Senator
Senate District 1