



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

January 26, 2017

Speaker Paul Ryan
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan:

We are writing to express our vehement opposition to your plans to eliminate Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program. On behalf of the 50,000 Wisconsinites who are enrolled in Medicaid and receive basic healthcare services from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI), including 6,000 people from within your own district, please reconsider and reverse your dangerous and irresponsible decision which will jeopardize the health and lives of thousands of Wisconsinites.

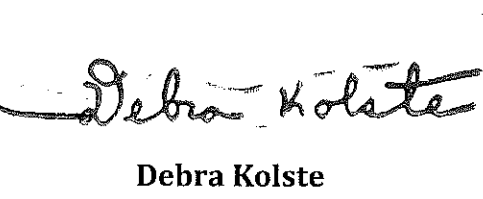

Almost equally concerning to your actual plans to defund Planned Parenthood are the faulty justifications for your decision. Not only are you stopping women from seeing the trusted health care provider of their choosing, but you are offering false promises of hope that they will be able to receive the same high quality, affordable care elsewhere. We know firsthand that this will not happen. When Governor Walker took away state funds for PPWI's preventive health services and five rural health centers were forced to close, the same promises were made to Wisconsin women. Yet no new providers have stepped in to fill the void in those communities. Furthermore, in 73 percent of the counties that PPWI serves, there is not a provider who has the capacity to absorb Planned Parenthood's patients.

There is a reason 60,000 patients trust PPWI to provide them with health care – they provide quality, affordable services in communities with high health care needs. Under your proposal to prevent Medicaid patients from accessing Planned Parenthood, thousands of Wisconsinites will be left without needed health care. Over 54 percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in health professional shortage areas, rural or medically underserved areas.

Do not continue to substitute your judgement for the judgement of Wisconsin women in making their own private healthcare decisions. Let's be clear – we are talking about cervical cancer screenings, clinical breast exams, testing for sexually transmitted infections and physical exams. As you know, no public monies can be used for abortion services. Should you decide to move forward with your plans to eliminate Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid provider, Wisconsin women will surely suffer significant harm, some will even die.

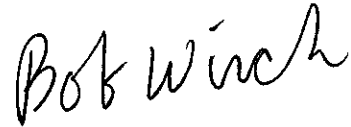
We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cory Mason
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Debra Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District



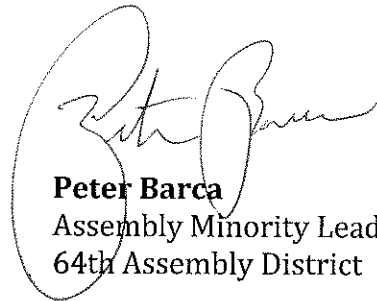
Bob Wirch
State Senator
22nd Senate District



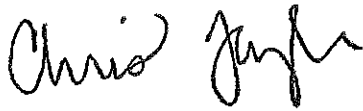
Tod Ohnstad
State Representative
65th Assembly District



Janis Ringhand
State Senator
15th Senate District



Peter Barca
Assembly Minority Leader
64th Assembly District



Chris Taylor
State Representative
76th Assembly District



Jimmy Anderson
State Representative
47th Assembly District



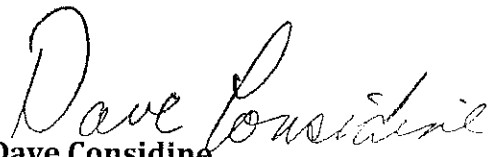
Terese Berceau
State Representative
77th Assembly District



JoCasta Zamarripa
State Representative
8th Assembly District



Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District



Dave Considine
State Representative
81st Assembly District

David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach
State Senator
27th Senate District

Eric Genrich
State Representative
90th Assembly District

Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Dave Hansen
State Senator
30th Senate District

Gary Hebl
State Representative
46th Assembly District

Dianne Hesselton
State Representative
79th Assembly District

Gordon Hintz
State Representative
54th Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson
State Senator
6th Senate District

Chris Larson
State Senator
7th Senate District

Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District

Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Fred Risser
State Senator
26th Senate District

Melissa Sargent
State Representative
48th Assembly District



Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District



Jennifer Shilling
Senate Minority Leader
32nd Senate District



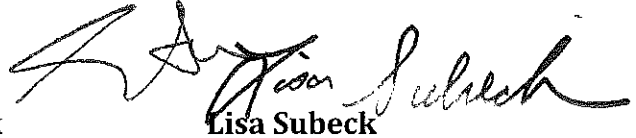
Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District



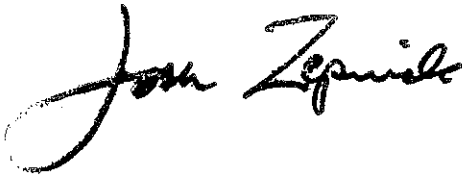
Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District



Amanda Stuck
State Representative
57th Assembly District



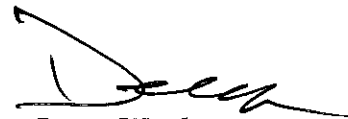
Lisa Subeck
State Representative
78th Assembly District



Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District



Kathleen Vinehout
State Senator
31st Senate District



Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District