



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Agard Commends Governor Evers' Special Session Call to Expand BadgerCare in Wisconsin

Special session legislation would allow Wisconsin to accept over a billion dollars in federal funds

MADISON - Today, Governor Tony Evers called a special session of the Wisconsin State Legislature to take up a bill that would expand BadgerCare and accept over 1.6 billion dollars in federal monies. Expanding BadgerCare is estimated to help nearly 90,000 Wisconsinites have access to healthcare and additionally save the state \$635 million over two years due to a higher federal reimbursement through the expansion.

Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) released the following statement regarding the special session:

"Healthcare is a human right. We've seen throughout this pandemic the importance of having access to quality healthcare and health infrastructure. By calling this special session Governor Evers is, once again, showing that his focus is on listening to the will of the people. It is not about getting credit, it's about doing the right thing for our state.

"The fact that Wisconsin is one of only 12 states that have not accepted federal money to expand Medicaid is appalling. This is not an issue of red versus blue states. 39 other states, including Washington DC, have accepted the Medicaid expansion dollars. This is not a partisan issue - this is an issue about caring for your friends and neighbors who do not have access to healthcare.

"By not accepting the federal dollars, we are leaving over a billion dollars on the table. Not accepting this money is fiscally irresponsible and morally cruel. Not only will this proposal bring in over 1.6 billion dollars -billion with a 'B'-in money, it will also create jobs across Wisconsin and provide many Wisconsinites access to care.

"I applaud Governor Evers for listening to the majority of Wisconsinites who support expanding BadgerCare. We cannot continue to kick this can down the road. By accepting these federal dollars, we can provide quality care for Wisconsin families, create sustainable jobs, and bring in over a billion dollars to help our state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is our last chance to accept these dollars. We must do this now."

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