



Dana Wachs calls for full Medicaid expansion in public comment
submitted to DHS today

EAU CLAIRE – Dana Wachs called for a full expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin today in a public comment submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Medicaid Services Director Michael Heifetz. Wachs called the refusal of Gov. Scott Walker to expand Medicaid to an estimated 80,000 uninsured Wisconsinites not simply cruel, but "fiscally irresponsible." Wachs also reminds the Walker administration that expanding Medicaid could create 10,000 new Wisconsin jobs.

The full text of the public comment is available below.

Michael Heifetz
Director
Division of Medicaid Services
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309

December 6, 2017

RE: Public Comment on Medicaid Expansion in Wisconsin

Dear Director Heifetz,

It's time to fully expand Medicaid in Wisconsin. Across our state, there are 300,000 Wisconsinites who lack access to health insurance. These are our neighbors, friends, mothers, fathers, workers, students, and hard-working Wisconsinites. These are folks who do their best to get by but often put off critical preventative medical care for fear they cannot afford it until it is too late.

Preventative healthcare is key to lowering long-term health care costs in Wisconsin. Studies have shown that expanding Medicaid allows folks to access primary care, better manage chronic diseases like diabetes and asthma, improves the affordability of medications, and reduces the likelihood that they will end up in the emergency room with more serious, more costly medical needs. Ignoring the health care needs of Wisconsin residents only costs the Wisconsin taxpayer more in the long run.

Refusing to fully expand BadgerCare from 2013 through 2019 will have cost the Wisconsin taxpayers more than \$1 billion according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. This is on top of the \$2.7 billion in federal tax dollars paid by Wisconsinites that is available to fund our Medicaid program if only we fully expanded. When we don't use these federal tax dollars, they go to other states. Refusing to fully expand Medicaid isn't simply cruel, it is fiscally irresponsible.

It's time. Fully expand Medicaid for the estimated 80,000 people who could be covered by BadgerCare. Doing so would save Wisconsin taxpayers roughly \$190 million each year and create 10,000 new jobs.

Sincerely,

Dana Wachs

Candidate for Governor

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