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Mona Mangat, MD
Chair of the Board

Wisconsin Medical Professionals Urge Leaders in Legislature to Expand BadgerCare, Help More Wisconsinites Access Care

To the Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Legislature:

Ean Bett, MD
Director of the Board

As health professionals in Wisconsin, we call on the Wisconsin Legislature to finally expand BadgerCare in our state. Wisconsin is one of only 10 states – and the only one in the Midwest – that has not expanded Medicaid as allowed under the Affordable Care Act and, as a result, denied hardworking Wisconsinites from getting access to health care that can improve and save lives. As health care costs continue to rise, it's time for our legislative leaders to reconsider their positions, help lower health care costs, and increase access to care for Wisconsinites.

Farhan Bhatti, MD
Director of the Board

While we're grateful that Wisconsin's Medicaid program, BadgerCare, provides essential health coverage to low-income families up to 100% of the federal poverty level, too many Wisconsinites are still being left without health care. By expanding this crucial program to people with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, we can help nearly 90,000 working Wisconsinites who currently have no health care finally get protection and peace of mind. These are Wisconsinites who, with a household income of \$43,000 a year for a family of four, earn too much for BadgerCare, yet can't afford private health insurance premiums, which are on average 19% more expensive in Wisconsin compared to neighboring states.

Gaby Goldstein, JD, PhD
Director of the Board

Martha Grant
Director of the Board

As medical professionals, we took an oath to do everything in our power to help prevent harm from coming to the patients we serve. We support expanding BadgerCare because, in states that expanded Medicaid, women are more likely to get mammograms and increase their chances of detecting cancer early, people are more likely to manage diabetes, and fewer people die from opioid deaths, among other positive outcomes. Medical debt is lower in states that expanded health care. Rural hospitals enjoy consistently higher operating margins in states that have expanded their Medicaid programs, which is especially critical in light of the recent closures of two hospitals in rural western Wisconsin.

Milan Satcher, MD
Director of the Board

Hon. Mark Schauer
Director of the Board



For too long, Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and his allies in the Legislature have stood directly in the way of expanding BadgerCare. Speaker Vos has even gone so far as to say, “Medicaid expansion will never happen.” We urge him and other legislative leaders who’ve opposed expansion to reconsider, and think of patients like ours who are just trying to get by, manage their health conditions, and continue working and caring for their families.

As Wisconsin health professionals, we call on our elected leaders to put the health and wellbeing of our patients and our fellow Wisconsinites ahead of partisan ideology, and support expanding BadgerCare.

Signed:

Ann Helms, MD; Neurology (Milwaukee)	Timothy Pavek, MD; Emergency medicine (De Pere)
Christopher Ford, MD; Emergency Medicine (Whitefish Bay)	Deborah Dryer-Akl, MD; Family medicine (Ashland)
Barbara Hostetler, MD; OB/GYN (Verona)	Dianne Meyer, MD; Emergency medicine (Middleton)
Robert Freedland, MD; Ophthalmology (La Crosse)	Chris Humphreys, MD; Anesthesiology (Stone Lake)
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Thomas Bachhuber, MD; Family medicine (Shorewood)	Irene Mirkin, MD; Internal medicine (Madison)
William Houghton, MD; Psychiatry (Milwaukee)	Sarah Enz, MD; Dermatology (Lodi)
William Hocking, MD; Oncology (Marshfield)	Elizabeth Ciurlik, MD; Pediatrics (Brookfield)
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