

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

BUDGET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

On July 16th the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released a report showing that your plan to terminate BadgerCare coverage for approximately 63,000 Wisconsinites has resulted in a gap in coverage. Health care policy experts project that many of these Wisconsinites formerly served under BadgerCare are now likely uninsured.

It is my hope that we can both agree that this is an unacceptable outcome of your plan. Your Administration had contended that 90 percent of these individuals would successfully transition off BadgerCare to plans in the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace. However, this promise was not kept. Your Department of Health Services report shows that 60 percent (nearly 38,000) of those terminated from BadgerCare coverage were not successfully transitioned to Marketplace coverage by your Administration.

I am troubled by the fact that it has now been over a month and you still cannot account for nearly 38,000 Wisconsinites who were kicked off BadgerCare as a result of your plan. As such, I urge you to immediately determine exactly how many of the 38,000 are uninsured, as well as develop a strategy to address this gap in coverage.

As you are aware, for over a year, I have communicated my belief that you have taken our state down a fiscally irresponsible road by pursuing a plan that has not only created a gap in coverage and newly uninsured Wisconsinites, but also covers fewer people at a higher cost to taxpayers.


Wisconsin is paying a steep price for your insistence on putting politics ahead of progress. Just this week, a new report published by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau reveals an increased cost to Wisconsin taxpayers as a result of your plan. According to this updated report, when compared to the Affordable Care Act's expansion of BadgerCare, your plan will cost state taxpayers \$206 million more from 2013-2015 and will cover 87,000 fewer individuals. This new report reveals that the negative consequences of your decision to reject the strong federal investment in our BadgerCare program have been significantly underestimated.

As you know, ensuring that all of the individuals kicked off BadgerCare successfully transition to Marketplace coverage and remain insured is one of my top priorities. With a report showing 38,000 Wisconsinites unaccounted for and potentially uninsured, as well as an updated estimate exposing state taxpayers to higher costs, the urgency for action is clear. I respectfully request that you take full responsibility for the consequences of your plan and determine how many of

the 38,000 individuals remain uninsured, and immediately develop an action plan to guarantee that uninsured, former BadgerCare recipients enroll in Marketplace coverage moving forward.

I look forward to your timely response on this important issue. Please know that I remain ready to work together to ensure that Wisconsin families receive the quality, affordable health coverage they deserve.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator