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**Joint Finance Committee open hearing about the  
Governor's Proposed State Budget will on Thursday, March 26, 2015**

Members of the Joint Finance Committee, thank you for your work and for this opportunity to speak. I represent the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America. As people of faith we are concerned about children and adults living in poverty in our state.

**TRAFFICKING:** Among our most vulnerable citizens are youth who are victims of sex trafficking. In the governor's proposed budget we are pleased to see \$2 million for services to help those youth. Please keep that total funding in the budget and increase it in the future.

**DRUG TESTING:** We are troubled that the budget includes a proposal to require drug tests for public assistance and unemployment insurance. This causes us to pose several questions:

- What will it cost and who pays?
- Will testing apply to pregnant women?
- Will testing apply to veterans and their survivors?
- What is the evidence that these programs reduce substance abuse? We have studied and have seen no evidence.
- Will it improve public health? How?
- Why not invest in policies that reduce poverty and substance use disorders?

**BADGERCARE:** We concerned about the 1,000's of people who have been unnecessarily taken off of BadgerCare. If we would take full Medicaid expansion we would not only provide better coverage for our people, but would save \$345 million. We would also support the Iowa model to take federal dollars to provide plans purchased on the federal marketplace. Even with the compromise we would still cover 81,000 additional people and save Wisconsin \$241 million.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rev. Cindy Crane  
Director