



August Action on Medicaid

Dear faithful advocates,

We encourage you to contact your U.S. Senators and Representative this August. Please encourage them to support extending the Child Tax Credit (see our message from last week on LOPPW's [website](#)) and passing the Medicaid Saves Lives Act.

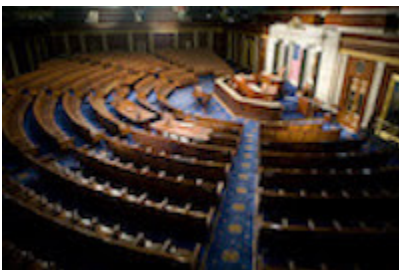
Currently, Wisconsin's BadgerCare (Medicaid) covers people who are at 100% of the federal poverty level. If you are an individual earning more than \$12,800 per year, for example, you do not qualify ([Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)). Expanding BadgerCare to people at 138% of the poverty level would extend comprehensive health and dental insurance to about 91,000 additional Wisconsinites working low wage jobs.

We are one of the 12 states that has refused to receive federal dollars to expand Medicaid. The American Rescue Plan Act even offered the 12 states that did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act additional financial incentives to finally expand their state Medicaid programs, but all 12 declined.

[Map of the 12 States that refused Medicaid Expansion](#)

The other 38 states that have accepted Medicaid expansion are accessing federal tax dollars to which we have all contributed.

The Medicaid Saves Lives Act would expand health care coverage for individuals in the 12 states found on the above map. If passed into law, the act would direct the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to create a federal Medicaid look-alike program, which would provide the same full, essential benefits of Medicaid, but run and administered at the federal level. Individuals at 138% of the poverty level may include those already enrolled in marketplace plans under the Affordable Care Act.



Contact your U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative during their August Recess! Call, organize a Zoom meeting, have an in-person meeting, or attend a town hall

meeting. Don't be shy about calling to ask questions and/or learn about town hall meetings. Please be cognizant of safety during COVID. Here are our U.S. Senators' websites and the site for finding your U.S. Representatives:

www.baldwin.senate.gov

www.ronjohnson.senate.gov

www.house.gov/representatives (Simply plug in your Zip Code to find your Representative and website)

[August Recess Guide](#) (from our D.C. office)



for your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators

Please feel free to use all or some of the below talking points when making your contacts. Please consider adding any personal stories you may have.

- Standing with my neighbor who needs health care is part of my call as a Christian.
- Via the Medicaid Saves Lives Act, we have an opportunity to provide quality, affordable health care for over four million additional Americans, including about 91,000 Wisconsinites (more than half in Wisconsin are parents), in low wage jobs.
- Right now, BadgerCare is offered to people earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level. A single individual earning just over \$12,800 per year (the poverty guideline for a single person), for example, still has a difficult time affording insurance.
- It is great that the American Rescue Plan is temporarily filling the gaps of health care coverage for many low income workers enrolled in the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Let's put federal legislation in place to better ensure people have quality health care now and beyond the pandemic.
- BadgerCare is comprehensive and includes dental care. Many low wage earners sacrifice taking care of their teeth, which can lead to long-term dental and health problems.
- We are one of only 12 states that has blocked federal dollars to Medicaid expansion.
- Across these 12 states, the Americans who are most harmed by this inaction from state leaders are people of color: 60 percent of people in the coverage gap are Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander.
- Medicaid Saves Lives Act would require no additional federal offsets. Funding was already budgeted under the Affordable Care Act.
- Medicaid Saves Lives Act will save Wisconsin money. Right now, without Medicaid expansion, federal dollars pay 59% and Wisconsin pays the other 41% for BadgerCare for everyone currently enrolled. If we had taken the Medicaid expansion, we would only be paying 10% of the cost for everyone currently enrolled plus individuals earning up to 138% of the poverty level. This would have saved Wisconsin money. However, under the federal plan, 100% of the costs would be covered by federal tax dollars, saving Wisconsin and the other 11 states even more state money.
- By not accepting federal funding to expand Medicaid under the ACA, Wisconsin has missed out on billions in federal funding since the beginning of 2014. This obstruction has meant the refusal of \$1.6 billion in federal funding for the next two years.
- Wisconsinites have been paying into Medicaid expansion with our federal dollars, which have benefited all states except the 12 states that have refused the expansion.
- It is time to expand BadgerCare and Medicaid in the other 11 states.

More information: [Wisconsin Public Television](#) [Kids Forward](#)

Thank you for taking time with us!

God's blessings,

Team LOPPW