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

Dear Governor Walker,  

I write to you today to, once again, implore you to make the right decision for Wisconsin and accept federal expansion of BadgerCare under the Affordable Care Act. I am committed to working with you on a Medicaid expansion waiver to ensure that we can do this the Wisconsin way.  

In the wake of the failure of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) and the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. The time for partisan attacks on the law has passed. It is now time to work together to better access and care for Wisconsinites. One of the most important things you can do as Governor of Wisconsin is to expand BadgerCare. For far too long, you have clung to false, partisan claims regarding BadgerCare expansion. Your Republican colleagues around the country acknowledge that the expansion of Medicaid has been successful in providing access to care for millions. I encourage you to join them and do the right thing by expanding BadgerCare and accepting the federal funds.  

The healthcare community in Wisconsin is united in support for expanding BadgerCare. As we saw in the negotiations regarding the AHCA and BCRA, Wisconsin was set up for failure because of our classification as a non-expansion state. During the debate and negotiations about the AHCA and BCRA, the Wisconsin Hospital Association sent multiple letters raising concerns about parity for Wisconsin. As we saw in the legislative exercise, there was no interest in guaranteeing parity for those states that did not expand Medicaid. Instead, Wisconsin and the other non-expansion states stood to lose $680 billion in federal funding for Medicaid compared to states that expanded the program. Under the BCRA, the non-expansion states would have lost $737 billion. In Wisconsin alone, we would lose an average of $800/BadgerCare beneficiary for a total loss of almost $1 billion.  

Each year we wait to expand is millions of dollars lost. Wisconsinites are already paying for Medicaid expansions throughout the country, whether or not they are benefitting from increased access. Federal taxes are collected and dispersed throughout the country in order to pay for state Medicaid expansions. It is only right for Wisconsinites to have the health care we have paid for and I encourage you to change your policy to expand Medicaid for Wisconsinites.  

Sincerely,  

Ron Kind