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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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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 Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. You and I both work for the people who elected us and it is clear that our constituents want Medicaid expansion. A recent poll conducted by Public Policy Polling indicates Wisconsin citizens believe expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin is the right thing to do. By a margin of thirty percent, Wisconsinites support accepting federal funding to help those most in need. It is time to set aside partisan politics and put the health and financial prosperity of Wisconsin first.

At a time when Wisconsin is facing a projected \$2 billion budget shortfall and your proposed \$300 million in cuts to higher education, accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid is the fiscally responsible thing to do for our state. Projections released last month suggest Wisconsin could save up to \$345 million by fully expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, while providing access to quality health care for tens of thousands of its low income, uninsured residents. In addition to the budgetary deficit, Wisconsin is currently ranked thirty eighth in the nation when calculating job growth and tied for last in the Midwest. As our neighbors outpace Wisconsin, you continue to reject an opportunity to create up to ten thousand jobs while ensuring Wisconsinites in need will not go without lifesaving care.

I understand many of your fellow Republican Governors felt apprehension during the first years of the Affordable Care Act. But the disastrous predictions have not come to fruition and Republican Governors from Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Nevada, and New Mexico, have all reached the same conclusion; expanding Medicaid is the right thing to do for American families. I applaud these Governors for appreciating that Medicaid expansion is not a question of party affiliation, it is a moral and fiscal imperative.

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 all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind

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