

**Testimony on LRB-3678 and LRB 3687
Joint Committee on Finance; December 2, 2013**

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Mental Health America of Wisconsin**

Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) appreciates and supports the Governor's proposal to delay the required enrollment date into the federal marketplace for those Badger Care and HIRSP enrollees who will be losing coverage through those programs. This delay greatly increases the likelihood that these individuals will not experience coverage gaps as a result of this transition.

MHA notes that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's estimate is that this delay will result in a net savings to the state due to the delay in new coverage for adults without dependent children below 100% FPL. MHA also notes that the bills will also result in increased costs to the Department of Corrections (DOC) because DOC rather than Medicaid will bear the costs of hospitalizations for inmates who would be eligible for coverage as adults without dependent children.

MHA requests that the Joint Committee on Finance consider the following:

1. Ensuring that all individuals currently covered under the Badger Care Plus CORE Waiver for Childless Adults maintain their eligibility for this program until the new Medicaid coverage for adults without dependent children goes into effect.
2. That the Joint Committee on Finance allocate funds to DOC to hold them harmless as a result of this change.
3. That the Joint Committee on Finance allocate funds to begin the new coverage for adults without dependent children prior to April 2014. The specific time such coverage would begin would be calculated in such a way that the entire package is budget neutral as compared to the current budget.

Thank you.