



November 26, 2013

Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren  
Via email

Dear Finance Committee Chairs Darling and Nygren,

As you embark on the Special Legislative Session to consider delaying the BadgerCare reforms passed in the 2013-15 Budget, we wish to share with you our perspective on this complex issue. We support the Governor's goal to reduce the number of uninsured residents in Wisconsin by half, as well as the recent proposal to extend coverage for current Medicaid and HIRSP enrollees by three months, providing coverage through March 31, 2014. As health care providers and advocates for our most vulnerable, we ask the State of Wisconsin keep its promise to newly eligible childless adults and maintain January 1, 2014 as the date these individuals can begin receiving coverage through BadgerCare.

Health Centers have been strong partners in advancing the Administration's goal of reducing the number of uninsured as they work to help as many Wisconsinites as possible enroll in coverage. They have also invested heavily in communicating new coverage options available in January of 2014 to their patients and community members. Many of the individuals who stand to benefit from the new BadgerCare options have been waiting years for affordable coverage, and several have delayed seeking care until after January 1, 2014, the date upon which they understood they could be enrolled in BadgerCare.

Health Centers across the State are eager to help every individual enroll in whichever coverage is most appropriate so that they can have the peace of mind promised to every Wisconsin resident through access to affordable coverage. We do not wish to see a gap in access to coverage for these individuals.

We recognize the complexity and difficulty of the choices you are facing, which are similar to the experiences we are hearing from consumers. We wish to work with you and the Administration to find solutions that will cover as many people as possible beginning January 1, 2014.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and for recognizing us a strong partner in a sustainable BadgerCare program now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Mari Freiberg,  
President, WPHCA Board of Directors

Stephanie Harrison  
Executive Director

CC: Joint Finance Committee members  
Legislative Leadership  
Secretary Kitty Rhoades  
Medicaid Administrator Brett Davis  
WPHCA Board of Directors