

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2016

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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

Dear Governor Walker:

I write to request an update on your efforts to transition the approximately 63,000 Wisconsinites that you removed from BadgerCare coverage to coverage in the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace. According to your latest figures, in 2014, almost 27,000 Wisconsinites you kicked off BadgerCare had not yet obtained health coverage and are likely uninsured.

You had promised to use Medicaid and the ACA Marketplace to cut Wisconsin's uninsured rate in half; however it has been over a year since Wisconsin taxpayers were updated on your plan to transition former BadgerCare recipients to coverage in the federal Marketplace. As such, I ask that you immediately provide the public with another report on how many of these Wisconsinites your Administration has transitioned to date, and how many it has not.

With the January 31st deadline fast approaching for individuals to enroll in private health insurance for 2016 in the ACA Marketplace, it is critical for the public, including Wisconsin enrollment assistors, to know how many former BadgerCare recipients still need to obtain ACA coverage under your plan. In July 2014, your Administration released a report indicating that you had failed to successfully transition almost 27,000 of these low-income Wisconsinites to the ACA Marketplace. At my request, in September 2014, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) granted a 60 day special enrollment period to give these individuals another chance to enroll in a Marketplace plan. Recently, CMS provided you with updated data that allows you to continue to track how many former BadgerCare recipients have enrolled in the federal Marketplace to date. Therefore, it is time for you to provide the citizens we represent with an updated status report on how many Wisconsinites you have successfully transitioned to ACA coverage.

Your plan to take away BadgerCare coverage for thousands of Wisconsinites stands in stark contrast to your fellow Governors in 31 states, including ten Republican Governors, who have put progress ahead of politics by expanding Medicaid coverage to more of their low-income residents under the ACA. I again urge you to join them, as it is not too late to renew Wisconsin's leadership in health reforms and accept the federal investment to strengthen our Medicaid program. Your decision to reject this federal investment continues to put health coverage for too many Wisconsinites at risk, and covers fewer people at a higher cost to Wisconsin taxpayers. According to updated projections from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Wisconsin could have saved over \$1 billion in taxpayer money over six years and about 83,000 additional Wisconsinites would gain coverage if you had fully expanded our BadgerCare program.

While I continue to believe that you have taken Wisconsin down the wrong path with your plan to remove 63,000 Wisconsinites from BadgerCare, I remain committed to strengthening the health security

of all Wisconsin families and I stand ready to work together. To ensure that the Wisconsinites who have lost BadgerCare coverage are able to obtain the insurance they need by the end of the ACA enrollment period this month, I ask that you provide an immediate public report on how many of these individuals you have successfully transitioned to ACA Marketplace coverage.

Thank you for your attention to this and I look forward to receiving your updates.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator