

For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Press Event to Support Wisconsin Medicaid and Raise the Voices of Working Families, Older Adults, Women, People with Disabilities and Others with a Stake in Wisconsin's Health

Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 10:00 am
Penfield Children's Center, 833 North 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI

What: A press event to raise awareness of what's at stake for recipients of Medicaid – including BadgerCare, SeniorCare, Family Care, children's waivers and other vital programs in the Governor's Budget Repair Bill.

When: Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:00am

Where: Penfield Children's Center, 833 North 26th Street Milwaukee, WI
Parking is available on 26th Street, Kilbourn and Wells

Who: The Save BadgerCare Coalition and the Medicaid Matters Alliance includes a broad and diverse alliance of advocates for public health, disability rights, women's health, the aging community, children's health along with working individuals and families that depend on Medicaid including BadgerCare for their health, well-being and economic security. Those scheduled to speak include: domestic violence survivors, people with disabilities, older adults, parents of children with disabilities, and women coordinating care for their families and others.

Background: The Budget Repair Bill, even as amended by the Joint Finance Committee, threatens the future of Wisconsin's Medicaid programs that provide critical supports to more than 1.1 million people in the state. The bill gives sweeping authority to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to enact "emergency rules" that could significantly change the Medicaid programs and reduce BadgerCare eligibility for children, parents and uninsured adults. These rules could also reduce benefits in programs that serve elderly and persons with disabilities, as well as change co-pays and premiums without legislative oversight or any public input. All of these changes would have dire consequences for Wisconsin residents.

These significant changes to the administration of Wisconsin's Medicaid programs are in danger of being overshadowed by the proposal's other provisions which involve the rights of public employees to collective bargaining. The public needs to be aware of the large implications this bill will have for all those who rely on Medicaid, as well as those who may need it as a safety net in the future. Changes made today will have dire consequences for years to come that cannot be underestimated.



Supporting organizations in attendance to include:

- AARP Wisconsin
- ABC for Health
- Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin
- ARC of Greater Milwaukee
- Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups
- Citizen Action of WI
- Community Advocates
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Family Voices of Wisconsin
- Grassroots Empowerment Project
- Greater Wisconsin Committee
- IndependenceFirst
- Make It Work Milwaukee Coalition
- Mental Health America of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force
- NAMI of Greater Milwaukee
- One Wisconsin Now
- Penfield Children's Center
- People First Wisconsin
- Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin
- Survival Coalition
- United We Stand Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
- Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses
- Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
- Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers
- Wisconsin Council on Children & Families
- Wisconsin Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
- Wisconsin Family Ties
- Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Wisconsin Voices
- Wisconsin Women's Network