

For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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

Sunday, February 20, 2011 1:00 pm
Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin, Madison, Wisconsin

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: Sunday, February 20, 2011 1:00pm

Where: Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin, Madison, Wisconsin

Who: The Save BadgerCare Coalition and the Save Medicaid Coalition that 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.

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; or reduce benefits in programs that serve elderly and persons with disabilities; and change co-pays and premiums without legislative oversight or any public input, which could 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. The public needs to be aware of the implications this bill will have for all those who rely on Medicaid; and that changes made today will have dire consequences for years to come that should not be underestimated.



Madison Senior Center

Supporting organizations in attendance to include:

- AARP Wisconsin
- ABC for Health
- Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin
- Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups
- Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- Community Advocates
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Family Voices of Wisconsin
- Grassroots Empowerment Project
- Greater Wisconsin Committee
- Mental Health America of Wisconsin
- One Wisconsin Now
- 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 Association for Perinatal Care
- Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
- Wisconsin Chapter of the American Cancer Society
- 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