

Legislators Respond to *Healthier Choices*

"I commend the Wisconsin Association of Health Plans, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce for the thorough analysis they've used to address one of the most difficult challenges our state faces: providing affordable, quality health care.

I agree that finding a solution won't come easily or quickly. That is why it is imperative that, as this model proposes, there must be a partnership between the private and public sector along with greater consumer awareness to develop a means of driving down costs without sacrificing quality care."

- *Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer (R-West Bend)*

"I personally welcome this proposal and its inclusion in the discussion as we advance into the spring legislative session. As Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, I expect we will look carefully at these initiatives and make sure they receive the level of consideration they deserve."

- *Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance*

"Increased health care costs present a comprehensive problem that needs to be addressed on many fronts. As chairperson of the Senate Health Committee, I am eager to pursue many of the initiatives set forth in the 'Healthier Choices' plan.

Certainly an area of concern is that of over-regulation. It is time to closely review the regulatory framework of Wisconsin's Health Care System and eliminate unnecessary duplication. While it is critical to hold the industry to a high standard, it is not only wasteful but also costly to impose duplicative requirements upon the industry. These added costs get passed along to the consumer."

- *Sen. Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh), Chair, Senate Health Committee*

"Rising health care costs undermine the ability of the state of Wisconsin to retain and create family sustaining jobs. Today Wisconsin employers, providers and insurers have laid out a full menu of proposals that deserve serious consideration by the legislature."

- *Rep. Gregg Underheim (R-Oshkosh), Chair, Assembly Health Committee*

"As a small business owner who was priced out of the health insurance market, I vowed to make affordable health care my number one legislative priority this session. Therefore, I am pleased to see government and the private sector coming together to address the health care crisis. True reform is possible only when all parties stop hiding behind rhetoric and are ready to fix what is clearly broken."

- *Rep. Becky Weber (R-Green Bay)*