



# KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

May 31, 2005

Rep. Kitty Rhoades  
Room 320 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Rep. Rhoades,

Over the past couple of weeks I have received an overwhelming number of letters, emails, and calls from constituents regarding the low rates of reimbursement for hospitals under the Medicaid program. There have been two problems that my constituents have continually hit upon. First, inaccessibility to healthcare on the recipient side has become the norm. Second, the financial burden placed on providers and ultimately private payers is reaching the breaking point.

I know that both you and Rep. Kaufert are all too familiar with the details of this growing problem so I'll be brief with my comments. I feel that it is paramount that we begin addressing the reimbursement shortfall and the resulting hidden health care tax during this budget cycle.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association's "Down Payment Plan" to strategically place \$25 million annually into reimbursements to Disproportionate Share Hospitals is a good start. I believe that finding these funds, particularly when considering the potential for a \$74 million federal match, should be a priority for our caucus.

I hope that you will take my thoughts into account during your deliberations on the Medicaid portion of the budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl Van Roy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karl Van Roy  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

CC: Rep. Dean Kaufert, Chairman  
Joint Committee on Finance