



September 19, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Johnson and Baldwin:

Since 2014, Wisconsin's uninsured rate has dropped nearly 40 percent and we now have one of the lowest uninsured rates in the country. Access to affordable health insurance on the exchange has been a key component of Wisconsin's successful model of coverage expansion. The availability of premium assistance and cost sharing reductions (CSRs) for lower-income individuals in the exchange has been critical to achieving *and sustaining* coverage expansion in Wisconsin. Indeed, 83 percent (179,000) of those with exchange coverage in Wisconsin are eligible to receive premium assistance with 51 percent (110,000) also eligible to receive CSRs.

However, the current month-by-month approach to funding the CSRs is leading to increased market instability. Wisconsin is already seeing the impact as multiple insurers on the exchange have pulled out of our state. It is anticipated that up to 11 Wisconsin counties in 2018 will have just one remaining insurer option. Further, without sufficiently funding CSRs, premiums and out-of-pocket expenses will increase and coverage will become unaffordable for thousands of newly insured across Wisconsin.

Today we join a growing and unified voice of governors, health care, insurance and business organizations across the nation in asking Congress to take immediate action to address these concerns.

We support the Senate HELP Committee's work to advance bipartisan policy solutions that will stabilize the exchange and sustain the coverage gains in Wisconsin. **We believe a minimum of two years of funding is needed to stabilize the exchange market and urge the Committee to fund CSRs continuously through 2019.**

We urge you to support, and work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these and other efforts to stabilize the individual insurance market and sustain the gains in coverage we have achieved in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Eric Borgerding
President/CEO
Wisconsin Hospital
Association



Chris Decker
Executive Vice President/CEO
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin

Dr. Noel Deep
Board President
Wisconsin Medical Society



Stephanie Harrison
Wisconsin Primary Health
Care Association



Staci Kothbauer
WIANA President
Wisconsin Association of Nurse
Anesthetists



Todd Noggle
President
Wisconsin Medical Group
Management Association



Ken Schellhase, MD
President
Wisconsin Academy of Family
Physicians



Tim Size
Executive Director
Wisconsin Rural Health
Cooperative



Tom Still
President
Wisconsin Technology
Council

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)