



# WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

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## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2017

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## **Marklein a no-show for families with pre-existing conditions**

*GOP Senator refuses to protect Wisconsin families from healthcare cost spikes*

MADISON, WI - As the debate over the federal health care repeal continues, one Wisconsin Senator has indicated he supports limiting coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions. State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) is one of several Republican politicians who recently refused to co-sponsor a bill that would protect Wisconsin families with pre-existing conditions from losing coverage or facing massive cost increases if Speaker Paul Ryan's health care repeal is signed into law.

"Wisconsin doesn't have a safety net to protect families with pre-existing conditions if Paul Ryan's health care repeal gets passed and signed into law by Donald Trump," said Matt Ullsvik, SSDC Executive Director. "Individuals who have cancer, diabetes or other serious illnesses shouldn't lose their coverage or be forced to mortgage their home to afford treatments. Instead of standing up for local families who are already struggling to afford health care coverage, Howard Marklein is going to bat for the out-of-state insurance companies who want to rewrite the rules in their favor. Wisconsin children, families and seniors who have a pre-existing condition through no fault of their own shouldn't be penalized by politicians who are in the pocket of wealthy insurance executives."

The Wisconsin legislative proposal, Senate Bill 265 (SB265), would prohibit insurance companies from denying health coverage to an individual or refusing to cover a claim because of a pre-existing condition. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, at least 27% of Wisconsin adults between the ages of 18 and 65 have a preexisting condition -- including roughly 25,000 residents who live in Sen. Marklein's 17th Senate District. If the protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions are repealed at the federal level, health insurance companies would once again be allowed to deny individuals coverage or discriminate against them based on their medical history.

A review of campaign contributions by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign revealed that Howard Marklein has accepted more than \$16,000 in campaign donations from individuals and special interest groups tied to the insurance industry. Individuals wishing to contact Sen. Marklein and urge him to sign on as a co-sponsor of SB 265 can call his Madison office at (608) 266-0703.

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