



**CHRIS TAYLOR**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release**

April 17, 2019

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## **Madisonians Support Medicaid Expansion at Town Hall Discussion**

*Rep. Taylor is joined by local elected officials, Sec. Designee Palm, and Governor Evers at event*

MADISON – Wednesday night, Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) was joined by Governor Tony Evers, Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary Designee Andrea Palm, and Representatives Jimmy Anderson, Dianne Hesselbein, Lisa Subeck, Shelia Stubbs, Gary Hebl, and Gordon Hintz for a town hall discussion about Medicaid expansion and the important role it plays in Governor Evers' budget.

By accepting the federal Medicaid expansion monies, Wisconsin would be able to provide health care coverage to 82,000 Wisconsinites and save the state over \$324 million. That money is then leveraged to attract another \$1.6 billion in federal dollars to truly improve the health and wellness of every person in Wisconsin. Medicaid expansion is the tool that is going to open so many doors to health care access across Wisconsin. It will empower the state to put needed funds into addressing substance abuse treatment and recovery, into improving maternal and infant health to close tragic racial disparities, into increasing access to vital dental care, into raising care giver wages, into enhancing youth tobacco usage prevention, and so much more.

The Town Hall was attended by health care providers, advocates, individuals, and seniors who provided support for this opportunity to save the state money, attract over \$1 billion in federal funds, and expand access to health care. In response, Rep. Chris Taylor issued the following statement:

"I am so thrilled to see the public's response to Governor Evers' budget. This really is a fiscally brilliant plan that utilizes all the federal resources available to us," said Rep. Taylor. "According to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the Republicans refusal to enact Medicaid expansion has cost our state \$2.78 billion in federal funds that we would have received had we moved forward with this common sense plan like 36 states and the District of Columbia have. We also would have saved over \$1 billion in state GPR that could have been invested in our public schools and roads.

According to a Marquette University Law Poll, 70% of Wisconsinites support Medicaid expansion. It is truly the will of the people, and we saw that reflected in our conversations last night. The public overwhelmingly supports this plan because this budget finally puts their needs and the needs of their communities first. It is time to move forward and stop playing political games with the health and lives of 82,000 Wisconsinites."

If you would like to testify in support of Medicaid expansion, the Joint Finance Committee will be hosting their last public hearing in Green Bay on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Details can be found here:

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1490348>

Written comments can be submitted to the committee at: [BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov)

