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Contact: info@bradpfaff.com

Pfaff Calls on Legislative Leaders to Reverse Position and Expand BadgerCare

Wisconsin Can't Afford to Play Politics With Public Health

CASHTON, WI – Today, after touring and meeting with administrators at Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center in Cashton, Brad Pfaff made the following statement regarding the growing health care accessibility crisis:

“The tremendous care provided here at Scenic Bluffs shines a bright light on the need to increase health care access and affordability for Wisconsin families. **More than ever, now is the time to stop playing politics with our health and reclaim Wisconsin’s federal taxpayer dollars and expand BadgerCare,**” said Pfaff. “Unfortunately, the politicians in control of the State Senate and Assembly continue to block Wisconsin families from getting the expanded care we are owed. There is no earthly reason to refuse federal assistance for Badgercare. Our taxes have already paid for it. It’s good enough for Oklahoma, Missouri and the vast majority of other states, so why not us?”

“**The sad truth is, when there’s no good reason for something like this (and there is no good reason to refuse federal BadgerCare dollars) the reason is usually politics,**” added Pfaff. “Those in control of the State Legislature are so wrapped up in their opposition to the Affordable Care Act and efforts to block Governor Evers at every turn, they’re keeping hard working Wisconsin families and vital providers like Scenic Bluffs from getting what they’re owed.

Growing up on the farm, when that bad storm hit, you and your neighbors can’t stop at anything to protect your livestock, your crops and your home. Well folks, look around, when it comes to our health care, the storm is here. I call on legislative leaders to do what’s right: accept federal dollars to expand BadgerCare and make it a little bit easier for Wisconsin providers like Scenic Bluffs to do their job for hard working families.”

Had Republicans accepted the Medicaid expansion this session, Wisconsin taxpayers would have saved \$324.5 million and brought in over \$1.6 billion in additional federal dollars for health care services. Instead, Wisconsin families will pay more than \$2 billion over the next two years in federal income taxes for other states to expand their Medicaid programs. In the 32nd Senate District, Medicaid expansion would save residents \$85 million and expand health coverage to an additional 2,662 people.

The 32nd Senate District includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford and Monroe Counties.

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