



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rep. Sara Rodriguez Statement on BadgerCare Special Session**

MADISON – Today, Governor Tony Evers signed Executive Order #116 calling for a special session of the Wisconsin State Legislature to expand BadgerCare in Wisconsin. Representative Sara Rodriguez (D-Brookfield) issued the following statement:

“As a scientist, I love looking at data to tell a story. With more than a decade of research behind us – the data is clear. Expanding BadgerCare is fiscally responsible, supported by the majority of Wisconsinites, and is simply the right thing to do. States that expanded their Medicaid programs have more positive health outcomes in their populations, more insured individuals, improvement in health care affordability, and better economic stability for state budgets.

“BadgerCare expansion means 90,000 more people in Wisconsin would become eligible for the program – people who are currently uninsured or underinsured. With just one change – we can bring home the federal funds we are owed and ensure more people can go to the doctor when they are sick. People without affordable health care translates to unhealthier communities and higher costs for everyone, including the privately insured. If Wisconsin expanded BadgerCare, it’s estimated that commercial premiums would be lowered by 11%.

“The plan Governor Evers has laid out is a no brainer for my constituents and the people across our great state. In addition to all of the positive outcomes from expanding BadgerCare, Governor Evers is using \$1 billion of the saving to help small businesses and families bounce back from the pandemic. In my district alone, the Children’s Research Institute will receive \$400,000 to advance pediatric medical research in Wisconsin and Versiti Blood Research Institute will receive \$15 million to expand research activities in the areas of blood cancers and immunology.

“I applaud Governor Evers for putting people before politics. The data supports expansion. The people support expansion. And I look forward to voting in favor of this critical piece of legislation.”

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