



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2021

Contact: Rep. Riemer, rep.riemer@legis.wisconsin.gov

Rep. Rodriguez, rep.Srodriguez@legis.wisconsin.gov

Reps. Daniel Riemer and Sara Rodriguez: Call for Expanding BadgerCare, Investing in Economic Recovery

MADISON - Today, Representatives Daniel Riemer (D-Milwaukee) and Sara Rodriguez (D-Brookfield) introduced legislation to accept the BadgerCare expansion and invest in Wisconsin's economic recovery after Legislative Republicans refused to act during the May 25th Special Session.

"Accepting the expansion of BadgerCare is especially important right now because Wisconsin stands to receive \$1 billion dollars of federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act when we do so," said Rep. Riemer. **"The past fourteen months have provided some stark reminders of challenges that need addressing and opportunities that have presented themselves to us. From statewide priorities to local projects, we're including the priorities outlined by Governor Tony Evers because he has proposed investments in projects that have been priorities for both Democrats and Republicans, and that will help ensure our communities and local economies get the support they need coming out of a global pandemic."**

For the last decade, there has been a lot of discussion about expanding BadgerCare here in Wisconsin. During that time, 38 out of 50 states, both red and blue, have done so for their residents. This includes all of our Midwest neighbors. These states set politics aside and did what was best for their constituents. Today, we're calling on our legislative colleagues to do the same - to set politics aside and expand BadgerCare as we near the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Expanding BadgerCare is fiscally responsible, supported by the majority of Wisconsinites, and leads to more positive health outcomes in our communities. With just one change – we can expand access to affordable healthcare to more than 90,000 people in Wisconsin and bring home \$1 billion in federal funding to help our state bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Rep. Rodriguez. **"In my district alone, Versiti Blood Research Institute will receive \$15 million to expand research activities in areas of blood cancers and immunology and the Children's Research Institute will receive \$400,000 to advance pediatric medical research. These are organizations doing great work that will not receive the critical funding they need if we do not expand BadgerCare."**

Continued Rep. Rodriguez, **"The data supports expansion. The people support expansion. There are no legitimate reasons to say no to BadgerCare expansion, but there are 1 billion reasons to say yes. Wisconsin cannot afford to pass up this opportunity."**

###

