



September 19, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Johnson and Baldwin:

Since 2014, Wisconsin's uninsured rate has dropped nearly 40 percent and we now have one of the lowest uninsured rates in the country. Access to affordable health insurance on the exchange has been a key component of Wisconsin's successful model of coverage expansion. The availability of premium assistance and cost sharing reductions (CSRs) for lower-income individuals in the exchange has been critical to achieving *and sustaining* coverage expansion in Wisconsin. Indeed, 83 percent (179,000) of those with exchange coverage in Wisconsin are eligible to receive premium assistance with 51 percent (110,000) also eligible to receive CSRs.

However, the current month-by-month approach to funding the CSRs is leading to increased market instability. Wisconsin is already seeing the impact as multiple insurers on the exchange have pulled out of our state. It is anticipated that up to 11 Wisconsin counties in 2018 will have just one remaining insurer option. Further, without sufficiently funding CSRs, premiums and out-of-pocket expenses will increase and coverage will become unaffordable for thousands of newly insured across Wisconsin.

Today we join a growing and unified voice of governors, health care, insurance and business organizations across the nation in asking Congress to take immediate action to address these concerns.

We support the Senate HELP Committee's work to advance bipartisan policy solutions that will stabilize the exchange and sustain the coverage gains in Wisconsin. **We believe a minimum of two years of funding is needed to stabilize the exchange market and urge the Committee to fund CSRs continuously through 2019.**

We urge you to support, and work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these and other efforts to stabilize the individual insurance market and sustain the gains in coverage we have achieved in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Eric Borgerding  
President/CEO  
Wisconsin Hospital  
Association



Chris Decker  
Executive Vice President/CEO  
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin

Dr. Noel Deep  
Board President  
Wisconsin Medical Society



Stephanie Harrison  
Wisconsin Primary Health  
Care Association



Staci Kothbauer  
WIANA President  
Wisconsin Association of Nurse  
Anesthetists



Todd Noggle  
President  
Wisconsin Medical Group  
Management Association



Ken Schellhase, MD  
President  
Wisconsin Academy of Family  
Physicians



Tim Size  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Rural Health  
Cooperative



Tom Still  
President  
Wisconsin Technology  
Council

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)