

AAA Committee Recommendation Report

Report to the AAA Board

Report prepared by: Cheryl Batterman 261-9789
batterman.cheryl@countyofdane.com

Date: 3 June 2019

From: Access Committee Legislative/Advocacy Committee Nutrition/Wellness Committee

History/Related Actions

At the 5/22/19 Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting, advocacy supporting federal and state programs was discussed and resulted in the following recommendation:

Schmidlkofer expressed disappointment with state lawmakers' lack of response to calls from citizens that Wisconsin accept federal funding for Medicaid Expansion, citing the continued detrimental impact not only on seniors, but those working adults (age 50+) who would benefit. Schmidlkofer stated the additional funding would decrease the amount of state funding dedicated to Medicaid and would greatly increase the number of people covered. Frazier stated expansion would allow for the current state funding dedicated to Medicaid to be spent on other health care priorities.

A motion was made by FRAZIER, seconded by SCHMIDLKOFER, to recommend that the AAA Board endorse a letter to the Dane County delegation in the State Legislature indicating strong support for Medicaid Expansion, with copies to Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, and Governor Tony Evers. The motion carried by the following vote:

<i>Ayes</i>	<i>7</i>	BUNCK, FRAZIER, KAUD LEZOTTE, MCHONE, OLSON & SCHMIDLKOFER
<i>Absent</i>	<i>2</i>	DAVIS & KRETSCHMAN

Financial/Budget/Other Resource Implications (if any)

None to Dane County

Recommendations

To approve the attached draft letter concerning Medicaid Expansion in Wisconsin.

Attachments/Links

Medicaid Expansion DRAFT Letter

DRAFT Medicaid Expansion Letter

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the Dane County Area Agency on Aging, I am writing to express our support for Medicaid Expansion and to urge you to do everything possible to ensure it is included in the 2019-2021 state budget. As you know, Medicaid Expansion will make healthcare accessible to over 80,000 low income Wisconsin residents, return federal tax dollars that the people of Wisconsin have already sent to Washington, and save significant state dollars that can then be used to match additional federal money to provide even greater healthcare benefits to the citizens of Wisconsin.

In addition to the above mentioned benefits, the increased revenues will create a demand for more doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers to provide healthcare services to the newly eligible Medicaid recipients.

This seems like a “Win, Win, Win, Win” opportunity to significantly increase access to quality healthcare to thousands of Wisconsinites and accomplishing it in a cost-effective manner. Again, please make this a priority budget decision so that we will not pass up the tremendous opportunity to improve the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin, including our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Carole Kretschman, Chair

cc: The Honorable Tony Evers, Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Elected Officials
Members, Dane County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive
Ms. Shawn Tessmann, Director, Dane County Department of Human Services