

# Advocacy Begins With You

Third in a three-part series

This article is the final segment in a three-part series outlining tips for successful advocacy. See the April/May/June issue of the *Bulletin on Tips for Phone Calls and Steps Toward Effective Communication with Legislative Offices*, and the July/August/September issue for tips on *Visiting Your Legislator's Office*.

## Writing To Your Legislator

A key factor for a legislator's decision on an issue often relates to the importance that his or her constituents place on the issue. Every member, especially those on the Joint Committee on Finance, must be aware of specific examples of how funding of the arts has affected their home district. Make sure the legislators evidence first-hand your successes.

1. *Use the correct address.* You can write your Representative and Senator at the following address:

For Representatives:

The Honorable (Name)  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8952 (*Representatives with last names beginning with A - L*)  
PO Box 8953 (*Representatives from Mc - Z*)  
Madison, WI 53708

Salutation is Dear Representative:

For Senators:

The Honorable (Name)  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Salutation is Dear Senator:

2. *Be legible:* Type your letter, or write clearly. Be sure to include your return address on the letter (envelopes can get tossed away).

## Quarterly Quote

MARY WIGMAN

"The New German Dance," *Modern Dance*, Virginia Stewart, ed. 1935

"During the creative process of artistic creation, man descends into the primordial elements of life. He reverts to himself to become lost in something greater than himself, in the immediate, indivisible essence of life."

3. *Use your own words and your own stationery:* Legislators feel that personal letters, rather than form letters, show a greater personal commitment on the part of the writer and consequently carry greater weight.
4. *Clearly identify the bill or issue* by the bill number, common title, etc.
5. *Focus:* Don't write about a laundry list of issues. If your request is to receive the individual attention you think it deserves, then focus on it in your own letter. Otherwise it may get lost in the crowd of other issues.
6. *Be brief:* A letter that is concise and to the point is more likely to be read and remembered than one that rambles.
7. *Be specific:* Your letter should be long enough to explain why you are writing: Share your knowledge of the program/issues with him/her. Since legislators can't be experts on all issues, they welcome such information, especially as it relates to their districts.
8. *Know your facts:* It is important to be accurate and honest in your letter. You can seriously hurt your credibility by inaccurate or misleading information.
9. *Don't threaten:* You will only alienate your legislator and cause bad feelings that may hurt your cause.
10. *Ask your legislator to state his or her position on the issue:* As a constituent, you have a right to know.
11. *Be timely:* Contact your legislator while there is time for him/her to consider and act on your request. Since timing can be crucial, it is critical that you act as soon as possible. Be aware that the Legislature can move incredibly quickly and with little notice.
12. *Be persistent:* Don't be satisfied with letters that give a status report on the bill, promise to "keep your views in mind," or otherwise skirt the issue. Without being rude, write back and ask for a more specific response.
13. *Say thank you:* Like everyone else, legislators appreciate a pat on the back. This is an important part of effective communication and one that we all too often forget. If, however, your legislator did not support your position, let him/her know that you are aware of that, and explain why you think they should have decided differently. It might make a difference next time.

## TIPS FOR CONTACTING ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS

One of the most effective ways to influence elected public officials is in face to face visits with them. Sometimes that is difficult to arrange so a phone call, email or letter can also be effective. The following steps may help to give your contact more impact:

1. Attempt to make a personal contact with the elected official, but if he/she is not available, ask to speak with his/her aide.
2. Introduce yourself.
3. If you are a constituent or a supporter say so.
4. If you have any family, business, social or political ties, say so.
5. If you are working with others on the issue or are active in the community, say so.
6. Briefly explain the reason for your contact.
7. If you have a bill/resolution number mention it or place it in subject line of your email.
8. Clearly request support for your issue and request the elected official to take specific action.
9. Always be polite and courteous, even if agreement is not possible.
10. Follow-up a phone call or personal visit with a letter/email summarizing the agreed action to be taken and thanking the official/staff for his/her time and concern.

**1. Medicaid Base Reestimate: Caseload and Intensity**

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	310,888,600	0.00	449,124,600	0.00	263,042,700	0.00	384,558,600	0.00
PR-F	477,816,300	0.00	684,864,900	0.00	356,232,900	0.00	557,116,200	0.00
PR-O	111,465,900	0.00	130,613,300	0.00	87,446,000	0.00	145,262,700	0.00
PR-S	-2,199,700	0.00	-2,156,200	0.00	-2,212,900	0.00	-2,197,600	0.00
SEG-O	-54,137,400	0.00	-58,337,600	0.00	-54,267,500	0.00	-57,565,100	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>843,833,700</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,204,109,000</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>650,241,200</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,027,174,800</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The Governor recommends adjusting the department's base budget to reflect reestimates of Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus enrollment, service utilization and inflation.

**2. Family Care Reform**

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	-6,000,000	0.00
PR-F	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	-8,254,400	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-14,254,400</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The Governor recommends improving outcomes for the state's elderly and disabled residents by reforming the Family Care program. These reforms include: (a) requiring all counties to participate in the program by January 1, 2017, or upon federal government approval; (b) offering benefits through several statewide managed care organizations (MCOs), which must offer primary and acute care services to members, including self-directed care; (c) providing members with a choice of MCOs in order to determine which best meets their needs; and (d) ensuring consumer protections by regulating MCOs as insurance entities under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. These reforms will improve health outcomes by breaking down silos of care and enhancing the capabilities of members and their families to navigate the system. In addition, the Governor recommends providing additional resources to the Board on Aging and Long Term Care to improve patient advocacy and ensure their rights are protected.

**3. Drug Testing and Treatment for Food Share Employment and Training Participants**

The Governor recommends requiring the department to submit a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow screening of FoodShare Employment and Training participants for drug use as a condition of eligibility and, if such a waiver is granted, to implement the program.

**4. Childless Adult Reforms**

The Governor recommends reforming health care coverage for Wisconsin's Childless Adult population by requiring the department to seek a waiver from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to impose monthly premiums for all enrolled childless adults and additional premiums for behaviors which increase an individual's health risks. Additionally, the waiver will seek the authority to require health risk assessments and screening for drug use to receive benefits. Finally, enrollment for childless adults will be for a maximum of 48 months. These changes will help ensure that childless adults remain insured for a reasonable period of time while making common sense reforms to safeguard state resources.

**5. SeniorCare Reform**

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY16		FY17		FY16		FY17	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-5,198,000	0.00	-10,396,000	0.00
PR-F	0	0.00	0	0.00	-5,198,000	0.00	-10,396,000	0.00
PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	-22,046,700	0.00	-44,093,400	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-32,442,700</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-64,885,400</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The Governor recommends modifications to SeniorCare in order to ensure coherent alignment with Medicare Part D.

- Fully fund the FoodShare Employment and Training program to provide able-bodied adults with education, skills and work experience necessary to obtain employment and become self-sufficient.
- Strengthen support for senior citizens by providing additional funding and positions for ombudsmen at the Board on Aging and Long-Term Care.
- Provide funding to support dementia care specialists in selected aging and disability resource centers across the state.
- Merge the Department of Health Services' Division of Long-Term Care with its Division of Health Care Access and Accountability to streamline the provision of Medicaid and eligibility services.
- Restructure funding and contracts for aging and disability resource center functions statewide to increase cost-effectiveness and enhance service delivery.
- Expand Medicaid coverage to the treatment portion of residential substance abuse treatment to ensure individuals with substance abuse disorders receive the appropriate level of care in the most appropriate setting.
- Expand the settings in which immunizations may be provided for Medicaid beneficiaries to include pharmacies.
- Fully fund SeniorCare while modernizing the program in alignment with Medicare Part D.
- Improve program integrity in the use of personal care services in Medicaid while ensuring members receive essential services on a timely basis.
- Provide \$30 million over the biennium for Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments to compensate health care providers that serve the largest number of low-income patients.
- Request waivers from the federal government to test able-bodied adults without dependents on FoodShare and Medicaid for illegal drugs. This would provide them treatment and assistance, so they can get back into the workforce and off of public assistance.

## I. PROTECTING WISCONSIN CITIZENS AND OUR MOST VULNERABLE



- Provide \$2 million in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Department of Children and Families to increase services to child sex-trafficking victims, especially in rural areas of the state.
- Create a new Division of Milwaukee Child Welfare within the Department of Children and Families to prioritize this function by ensuring increased oversight. Also provide 11.0 FTE new positions to improve the review of potential or reported child abuse and neglect cases in the newly-created division.

Name	Phone	Street Address	Mailing Address
Sen. Mark Miller	266-9170	Room 7 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Sen. Jon Erpenbach	266-6670	Room 104 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Sen. Scott Fitzgerald	266-5660	Room 211 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Sen. Fred Risser	266-1627	Room 130 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Sen. Luther Olsen	266-0751	Room 313 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Sen. Janis Ringhand	266-2253	Room 22 South, Capitol	PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707
Rep. Terese Berceau	266-3784	Room 104 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Lisa Subeck	266-7521	Room 418 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Keith Ripp	266-3404	Room 223 North, Capitol	PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Gary Hebl	266-7678	Room 120 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Chris Taylor	266-5342	Room 306 West, Capitol	PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Melissa Sargent	266-0960	Room 321 West, Capitol	PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Sondy Pope	266-3520	Room 118 North, Capitol	PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. DianneHesselbein	266-5340	Room 9 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Andy Jorgensen	266-3790	Room 113 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. John Jagler	266-9650	Room 316 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Joel Kleefisch	266-8551	Room 216 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Robb Kahl	266-8570	Room 322 West, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Rep. Dave Considine	266-7746	Room 412 North, Capitol	PO Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708
Gov. Scott Walker	266-1212	Room 115 East, Capitol	PO Box 7863, Madison, WI 53707

To email legislators : Sen.(last name)@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.(last name)@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Examples: Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Berceau@legis.wisconsin.gov;

Joint Finance E Mails

Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov; Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov; Sen.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov; Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov; Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov;

Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Rep.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Schraa@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Rep.Knudson@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Czaja@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Rep.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov;  
Joe.Malkasian@legis.wisconsin.gov; Bob.Lang@legis.wisconsin.gov;

Joint Finance Phones:

Sen. Alberta Darling (608) 266-5830  
(Co-Chairperson)

Sen. Luther Olsen (608) 266-0751

Sen. Leah Vukmir (608) 266-2512  
Sen. Tom Tiffany (608) 266-2509  
Sen. Lena Taylor (608) 266-5810

Sen. Sheila Harsdorf (608) 266-7745  
Sen. Howard Marklein(608) 266-0703  
Sen. Jon Erpenbach (608) 266-6670

Rep. John Nygren (608) 266-2343  
(Co-Chairperson)

Rep. Amy Loudenbeck(608)266-9967

Rep. Dale Kooyenga (608) 266-9180  
Rep. Dean Knudson (608) 266-1526  
Rep. Chris Taylor (608) 266-5342

Rep. Michael Schraa (608) 267-7990  
Rep .Mary Czaja (608) 266-7694  
Rep. Gordon Hintz (608) 266-2254

Joe Malkasian (608) 264-8314  
(Clerk)

Bob Lang (608) 266-3847  
(Director)

SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING  
SENATE CHAIR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR SHEILA HARSDORF  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR LEAH VUKMIR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR TOM TIFFANY  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR HOWARD MARKLEIN  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR LENA TAYLOR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON, WI 53707-7882

SENATOR JON ERPENBACH  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

SENATOR LUTHER OLSEN  
VICE CHAIR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 7882  
MADISON WI 53707-7882

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN NYGREN  
ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8953  
MADISON WI 53708

REP. AMY LOUDENBECK  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

REP. DALE KOOYENGA  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

REP. MICHAEL SCHRAA  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8953  
MADISON WI 53708

REPRESENTATIVE DEAN KNUDSON  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

REPRESENTATIVE MARY CZAJA  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

REP. CHRIS TAYLOR  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8953  
MADISON WI 53708

REP. GORDON HINTZ  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 8952  
MADISON WI 53708

MR BOB LANG  
DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU  
ONE E MAIN ST STE 301  
MADISON WI 53703

JOE MALKASIAN  
JOINT FINANCE COMM CLERK  
ROOM 305 EAST, STATE CAPITAL  
MADISON, WI 53702