



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

October 27, 2014

**VIA HAND-DELIVERY**

Office of the Inspector General  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
P.O. Box 309  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Dear Inspector General White:

It has come to our attention that the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") has been investigating Medicaid reimbursements of women's health providers in Wisconsin. We find this investigation troubling for several reasons, as set forth below:

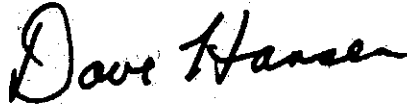
- 1) There has been no credible claim of fraud made against these agencies, which are small reproductive health organizations that offer critical prevention services in rural areas where there are no other providers.
- 2) There appears to be no legal basis for investigating the reimbursement processes—family planning clinics in Wisconsin charge Medicaid the allowable fee as set by the State of Wisconsin. Since that allowable fee was set in 2009, the DHS has NOT promulgated a new fee structure.
- 3) The Office of Inspector General was created in 2011 by Governor Walker to prevent waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars—none of which is occurring in these instances.

It is curious to us that OIG has spent so much time and resources needlessly harassing and targeting these small providers who serve a small percentage of all Medicaid recipients. It should be noted that these providers fall into the category of Health Professional Shortage Areas—which means, among other things, that providers in the contiguous areas are over utilized, excessively distant or difficult to get to for patients. In addition, these health care centers provide critical preventative care that saves the state millions of dollars each year. In addition, ninety percent of the costs for family planning under BadgerCare are being paid by the federal government—so the actual investment of state GPR is quite small. In fact, it would seem that OIG is spending more taxpayer resources investigating unsubstantiated claims than it could actually recoup if in fact credible instances of fraud were discovered.

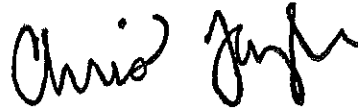
Finally, it appears on the surface that these investigations impact a disproportionate number of providers predominantly serving women or staffed by women. Please release the full list of agencies and organizations undergoing an OIG audit at this time. If in fact OIG is not targeting

providers that serve predominantly women, it should be clear from that list. In addition, I would encourage OIG to reassess its priorities. If the mission of OIG is to root out fraud and waste, an apparent obsession with making it more difficult for women and families to access prevention based health care like prescription birth control and condoms distributed by licensed nurses is misplaced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Dave Hansen  
30th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Representative Chris Taylor  
76th Assembly District