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P.O. Box 7863
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April 6, 2017

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind,

Wisconsin is one of the best states in the nation for access to coverage. We do not need to take the Medicaid expansion under Obamacare.

The Kaiser Family Foundation shows Wisconsin has no coverage gap. We found a Wisconsin-specific way to cover everyone living in poverty under Medicaid for the first time in state history. For those living above poverty without coverage, we helped transition them into the marketplace. Today, Wisconsin outranks 43 other states for access to coverage.

Our innovative approach helped those living in poverty without saddling our taxpayers with the risk of a guaranteed reduction in federal reimbursement levels and potentially greater reductions in the future. We cared for those in need while protecting the hard-working taxpayers.

Your oversimplified suggestion would use federal taxpayer dollars to shift people from coverage in the private marketplace to a government-run system. This would subject Wisconsinites to the whims of Washington D.C.

At a time when the number of people in Wisconsin's labor force stands at an all-time high, and the percentage of people working in our state is one of the best in the nation, we are continuing to help more people transition into the workforce. **With that in mind, my goal is to have fewer people on Medicaid because they are working.**

Your proposal would perpetuate government dependency. True freedom and prosperity do not come from the clumsy hand of the government. They come from empowering people to live their own lives and control their own destinies through the dignity that is born of hard work. That's true independence.

As for your advice on budgetary matters, I inherited a \$3.6 billion budget deficit when we first took office. Every year since then, we have ended with a budget surplus. In fact, we ended FY 2016 with a positive general fund balance of \$331 million, and it is expected to grow to \$453 million by the end of FY 2017.

Additionally, Wisconsin's rainy day fund is 165 times larger than it was when I took office, and it will grow to 178 times larger under my current budget. Our long-term outstanding debt is the

4th lowest in the nation. And we are one of only three states in the country with a fully-funded state pension system.

In contrast, when you first took office in January 1997, the federal debt was \$5 trillion. Today, the federal debt is approaching \$20 trillion. In your first campaign for Congress more than 20 years ago, you stated lowering the nation's debt would be one of your top priorities.

Having stated these facts, I trust you will understand the humor I find in receiving budgetary advice from a member of Congress who is asking me to have Wisconsin taxpayers buy into Obamacare, which itself has increased the federal deficit by billions upon billions.

Thank you for your letter and the opportunity to set the record straight on our successful reforms and why they are a much better alternative to the Obamacare expansion.

Sincerely,



Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin

