



**SCOTT WALKER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

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November 15, 2013

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your interest in state efforts to cope with the troubled roll-out of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). While it has been clear for weeks that the federal government was ill-prepared for the October launch of the program, our state has been working to properly adjust to the changes mandated by Washington. With the low enrollment numbers announced earlier this week, it is evident that in order to keep our citizens from falling through the cracks, Wisconsin must take action to provide the federal government more time to fix the problems it has created.

As you have been informed via direct briefings with your office, Wisconsin state agencies have been aggressive in working to help those transitioning as a result of the federal ACA. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) contacted each of those transitioning onto the exchange multiple times via mail and telephone to make sure they were aware of the changes in their eligibility and to provide them with information about how to enroll in health insurance through the exchanges. In fact, just this week, DHS sent out letters to the approximately 77,000 individuals transitioning onto the federal exchanges. These letters included paper applications and directions about how to complete the forms and apply for qualified health insurance plans.

While our outreach efforts have been robust, they have been stymied by the failure of the federal government to provide a reliable way for citizens to enroll. This has caused considerable concern among affected families and individuals about what will happen if they are not able to enroll by the federal government's deadline of December 15, 2013. To help these citizens who have been placed into this difficult position through no fault of their own, I announced yesterday that Wisconsin will take action to postpone the implementation of our Badgercare transition through March 31, 2014. Likewise, I also announced efforts to maintain Wisconsin's model Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan for three more months to provide a safety net during the transition to some of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Finally, I also called upon the Obama Administration to allow Wisconsinites to use federal subsidies in the private market to allow them options for purchasing coverage other than the failed federal exchange. In most counties, people will have more insurer options off the exchange than are available on it. I hope you

will join me in calling for this common sense solution to help Wisconsinites struggling with the uncertainties created by the federal health care law.

Wisconsin will continue striving to cope with the ACA, and through the actions announced yesterday, we are working to provide the federal government more time. But, considering these difficulties arise as a direct result of federal law, states are reliant upon the President and Members in Congress such as yourself, to fix what is now broken.

I look forward to working with you to best serve the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Walker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Walker  
Governor