State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Dennis G. Smith, Secretary

February 21, 2013

Governor Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Governor Walker:

It has been a profound honor to serve you and the people of Wisconsin as Secretary of the Department of Health Services (DHS). Your leadership in directly confronting the serious fiscal challenges of today stands in sharp contrast to the all too familiar pattern at the federal level that repeatedly postpones the most difficult decisions for another time. There is no void between your words and your actions.

For the past two years, you have demonstrated an unprecedented commitment of state resources to the many programs entrusted to the Department. Your new budget proposal, aimed specifically at necessary entitlement reform, will stabilize the Medicaid programs for our most vulnerable citizens and give the Department the tools necessary to secure these programs and set them on a path to sustainability. In the coming year, your Administration will also implement innovative changes to the delivery of health care including Virtual PACE, medical homes, and launch the next generation of self-direction of long term care supports and services. Your vision in creating the Office of Inspector General at DHS restores public confidence that every dollar of taxpayer funds will be spent appropriately. This new Office will reach full strength in 2013. Your proposal to assist able bodied adults leave welfare for work and independence is an important statement that no one should be left behind the economic recovery. Your commitments to those with mental illness will provide new hope to many.

You have assembled an outstanding team of gubernatorial appointees and career professionals at the Department that will see these changes through. It has been an honor and privilege to serve but, as is inevitable, it is time for others to continue the work here. I have accepted a tremendous opportunity in the private sector at another outstanding organization effective March 1.

I look forward to following your continued successes in leading a great state to further greatness. Best wishes to you, the First Lady, your family, and your outstanding team.

Sincerely,

Dennis G. Smith

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