November 4, 2013

Governor Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

As a former County Executive, you are well aware that county workers are on the frontline, where they provide critical information and services to individuals and families every day. You know, better than most, that counties play an important role in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

We write to urge you to consider delaying the implementation of the scheduled changes to *BadgerCare* until the issues with enrollment into the federal health insurance marketplace are fully resolved. As you know, more than 77,000 people across Wisconsin are being required to transition from *BadgerCare* to the marketplace. But unless they have adequate time to review plan options and enroll in coverage through the exchange they are likely to face a gap in insurance coverage.

Federal officials have indicated that issues with the healthcare.gov website will be resolved by the end of November. Notwithstanding, some may be left with only two weeks to enroll, in compliance with the ACA mandate. In order to ensure this vulnerable population isn't unnecessarily caught between arbitrary timelines, we ask that the *BadgerCare* changes simply be postponed until March 31, 2014. This should provide all those required to transition from *BadgerCare* to the federal exchange ample time and information to do so.

On behalf of the people we are elected to serve and the county staff attempting to assist them, we ask you to consider what we believe is a common sense approach to this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Nelson
Outagamie County Executive

Mark Harris
Winnebago County Executive

Allen Buechel
Fond du Lac County Executive