



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

DATE: 7-7-15

TO: Members, Wisconsin State Legislature  
FROM: The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

RE: Survival Coalition Asks for Changes to BadgerCare

We would like to bring to your attention some very important issues regarding the proposed changes to BadgerCare contained in the state budget bill. Survival Coalition is very concerned that the proposed requirements to cap enrollment, charge premiums to people living below the poverty line and to screen all childless adults applying for BadgerCare for drug use will result in individuals with disabilities losing access to health insurance.

Previous attempts to reform public assistance programs have exempted people with disabilities from policies that would result in them losing access to services. However, as drafted, the changes proposed to BadgerCare in the state budget bill would apply to all childless adults using BadgerCare, including people with disabilities.

When taken together, we believe these changes have the very real potential to create a coverage gap in Wisconsin and will result in individuals with disabilities losing access to health care.

Many people with disabilities access Medicaid through Elderly, Blind, Disabled Medicaid (EBD). In addition to healthcare coverage, EBD Medicaid includes other subprograms such as Family Care, and Home and Community Based Services. It is important to note that a significant number of individuals with disabilities receive Medicaid coverage through the BadgerCare program – and many are childless adults who would be impacted by the budget provisions. There are individuals with disabilities who may not qualify for the traditional EBD Medicaid program, either because they are in the disability determination process or they have less severe disabilities and, while significant, these may not currently meet the EBD disability criteria. A significant number of people with mental illness are covered by the BadgerCare childless adult program. Many of them did not have access to insurance in the past and for that reason did not have the medical records needed to obtain a disability determination and access to EBD Medicaid.

Survival Coalition asks that you make the following modifications to the budget bill (pages 557-558 of Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 21):

- **Remove 48 Month Cap on Enrollment for BadgerCare Childless Adults (Page 558, Lines 5-7)**

- **Remove Monthly Premiums for individuals with incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (Page 558, Line 1)**
- **Remove the requirement for individuals with risky health behaviors to pay higher premiums (Page 558, Lines 2-3)**
- **Remove Drug Testing Requirements for Accessing BadgerCare (Page 558, Lines 8-10)**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Survival Co-Chairs:

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