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February 3, 2025

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, we are writing to urge your support for Medicaid funding in the state of Wisconsin. The Commission on Aging represents more than 190,000 older adults in Milwaukee County, seven percent of which are enrolled in a Medicaid-funded long-term care program.

As Congress considers a major reconciliation bill, we know that more than two trillion dollars' worth of cuts to Medicaid are under consideration. These potential cuts to Medicaid would mean much less federal Medicaid money would be available to fund Wisconsin's Medicaid programs. Every single Medicaid enrollee would be impacted by these proposed cuts, including older adults and individuals with disabilities.

For many of Wisconsin's older adults and individuals with disabilities, their only means to access long-term care is through Medicaid. Medicaid funds almost all long-term care, including care provided in Wisconsin's skilled nursing facilities and the state's home and community-based programs—Family Care, IRIS, Partnership, and PACE. Throughout 2024, approximately 66,700 older adults or adults with disabilities were enrolled in a Medicaid program on a monthly basis in Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County's older adults make up a disproportionate number of enrollees in Medicaid funded long-term care programs. PACE, which is exclusively for the elderly, is composed of 67.9 percent of enrollees from Milwaukee County. In the IRIS program, 56.6 percent of the frail elderly enrollees are Milwaukee County residents. Cutting Medicaid funding will have a direct, harmful impact on Milwaukee County's most vulnerable residents.

The healthcare workforce and many caregiving jobs depend on Medicaid. Medicaid funds pay workers' salaries and support small businesses, hospitals, mental health professionals, therapists, and many other jobs in every corner of Milwaukee County and throughout Wisconsin.

Please protect Medicaid funding and do not include any cuts to this spending in any upcoming reconciliation or federal budget bills. Milwaukee County's older adults and individuals with disabilities rely on Medicaid to live with dignity in their homes and communities and with the support of their caregivers.

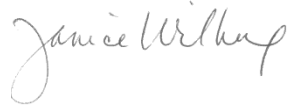


MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

MARCIA P. COGGS HUMAN SERVICES CENTER
1220 WEST VLIET STREET, SUITE 300 | MILWAUKEE, WI 53205
(414) 289-5920 | FAX: (414) 289-8568 | TRS: 7-1-1
AgingDisabilitiesServices@milwaukeecountywi.gov | county.milwaukee.gov

Please reach out if we can provide any additional information about this topic.
Thank you for your continued support of our older adults and your consideration of
this request.

Sincerely,



Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Chair
Commission on Aging



Brian Peters
Legislative Advocacy Officer
Commission on Aging



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