



HealthWatch Wisconsin Legislative

ACTION ALERT

March 12, 2010

Make Statewide Health Benefits Advocacy A Reality! Tell Your Legislator to Co-Sponsor and Support The Family Health Benefits Bill (LRB 4210/2)

Wisconsin Legislative Hotline Toll-free: 1-800-362-9472

With your help, statewide health benefits counseling will soon be a reality. We are calling on HealthWatch Wisconsin members and readers of the Update Newsletter to contact their senators or Representatives to support important legislation impacting access to health care coverage in Wisconsin! The Bill makes it easier for the people of Wisconsin to get help navigating the complicated tangle of health care providers, services, and coverage by establishing a network of advocates to assist patients.

Why This Bill?

Many people under the age of 60 face complex and convoluted health care coverage issues at the worst possible time-when they or a loved one are ill. Far too often, the fractured financing and coverage systems of today's public and private health plans and coverage programs leave our friends with medical debt, coverage and eligibility denials, and other emotional and financial burdens. Still others are eligible for programs that are difficult to understand without individual advocacy assistance.

Why Now?

Many advocates regularly refer people over age 60 to the statewide network of Senior Benefit Specialists located in every county in Wisconsin. Other times, it is appropriate to refer individuals to a growing network of Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Unfortunately, for most people under age 60, there is no coordinated network of individual advocacy assistance to help people get the health care coverage they need and deserve. As health reform looms ever closer, the significant changes proposed will heighten the existing need for community based assistance. This Bill lays the foundation for a statewide coordinated advocacy network for people under age 60.

How You Can Help!

1.) Call the Wisconsin Legislative Hotline Toll-free: 1-800-362-9472.

Call Tips:

- Be clear and polite
- Introduce yourself and where you live
- Let them know you support "The Family Health Benefits Counseling Bill" (LRB 4210/2) and encourage your elected official to co-sponsor and support it.

Example script for your call:

"My Name is _____, and I'm a voter calling from _____(City, County). I am calling to urge support of "The Family Health Benefits Bill" LRB 4210/2 which proposes to provide family and individual health benefits counseling services for the benefit of the people of Wisconsin."

-OR-

2.) Send an Email:

[Find your elected official here](#)

Sample Email:

RE: "The Family Health Benefits Bill" LRB 4210/2
Dear Senator/Representative _____:

As your constituent, I urge you to support and cast your vote in favor of "The Family Health Benefits Bill" LRB 4210/2, which proposes to provide a network of health benefits counseling services for Wisconsin Residents and families.

Many people in Wisconsin face complex and convoluted health care coverage issues at the worst possible time—when they or a loved one are ill. Far too often, the fractured financing and coverage systems of today's public and private health plans and coverage programs leave our constituents with medical debt, coverage and eligibility denials, and other emotional and financial burdens. Individual advocacy assistance can help. This bill will establish a network of advocates to assist people in obtaining and maintaining health care services and coverage of health care expenses. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Let Us Know How It Went!

Send a [quick email](#) letting us know if you called, who you talked to, and how it went! We'd love to hear from you.

Every phone call and every email will help as we strive to make coordinated, statewide patient advocacy a reality in Wisconsin.

Thank You!