



HealthWatch Wisconsin **ACTION ALERT**

February 15, 2011

A Call to Action: Budget Repair Needs Repair!

In This Issue

[Protect BadgerCare and Medicaid Programs in Wisconsin!](#)

[Read All About It:](#)

[About the Budget Repair Bill](#)

[Miss a Newsletter?](#)

[Support Action Alerts](#)

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Tracking Budget Repair This Week:

- **Tuesday:** Assembly Organization Committee to introduce special session bill.
- **Tuesday:** Joint Finance Committee public hearing.
- **Tuesday-**

Protect BadgerCare and Medicaid Programs in Wisconsin!

A Call to Action for Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin, Friends and Colleagues:

The budget repair bill introduced by Governor Walker is being rushed through the legislature! The Medicaid "fixes" in this budget bill would give the Governor the ability to remove the full legislature from determining key elements of the program. This overly broad delegation of power to an administrative agency is alarming and may be illegal. The bill also includes policy issues that do not belong in a budget bill. These are old tricks that have been used before and should not be allowed. Help protect BadgerCare and Medicaid Programs in Wisconsin-learn how below.

Your voice is needed and appreciated! Consider contacting your elected officials and let them know your thoughts on BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid Programs in Wisconsin!!

Call the Wisconsin Legislative Hotline:
1-800-362-9472

Contact the Joint Finance Committee:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/jfc.html>

Email your elected official:
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx>

Join HealthWatch Wisconsin to Help us Promote Access to Health Care & Coverage in Wisconsin!

<http://www.safetyweb.org/healthwatchwi/membership.html>

Read All About It:

- [Health Care Items in Budget Repair Bill Would Not Help Reduce Current Deficit](#)
- [Legislative Fiscal Bureau Non-Fiscal Items in Budget Repair](#)
- [Walker Budget Proposal Would Impact How Health Care Works in State](#)
- [Vital Signs: Budget Repair Bill Gives Walker Free Hand to Revamp, Cut Medicaid Programs](#)
- [Walker Could Reshape Medical Care](#)

About the Budget Repair Bill

Wednesday: Joint Finance Committee considers the bill.

- **Thursday-Friday:** Bill to be taken up by Legislature.

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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



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If you know someone who might be interested, please [Forward this Newsletter >>](#)

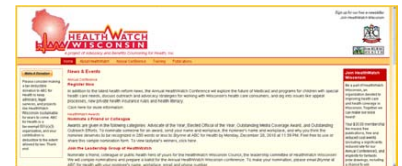
Relevant Portions of the [Budget Adjustment Bill Draft: LRB-1383](#):

- This bill requires DHS to study potential changes to the MA state plan and to waivers of federal law relating to medical assistance.
- If DHS determines, as a result of the study, that revision of existing statutes or rules would be necessary to advance any of the purposes for which the study was conducted, DHS may promulgate rules to implement certain changes, including making certain requirements, modifying benefits, revising provider reimbursement models, developing standards and methodologies for eligibility, and reducing income levels for purposes of determining eligibility.
- DHS must submit any proposed rules and any plan developed as a result of the study to JCF for review.
- DHS must submit an amendment to the state MA plan or request a waiver of federal laws related to medical assistance, if necessary, to the extent necessary to implement any proposal.
- If the US DHHS does not allow the amendment or does not grant the waiver, DHS may not put the rule into effect or implement the proposal.
- To reduce the eligibility income levels to a certain amount, DHS must request a waiver from the Secretary of DHHS to permit DHS to have in effect eligibility standards, methodologies, and procedures that are more restrictive than those in place on March 23, 2010.
- If DHS does not receive approval for the waiver before December 31, 2011, DHS must reduce the eligibility income levels on July 1, 2012 for MA programs and MA waiver programs to 133 percent of the federal poverty line for adults who are not pregnant and not disabled, as allowed under federal law.
- To the extent permitted by federal law, DHS may impose restrictions on providing benefits to individuals who are not citizens of the United States
- DHS may promulgate the rules as emergency rules.

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