

Expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin Makes Dollars & Sense

Written by Wisconsin Assembly, Bryce Dille

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Republicans in Madison plan to block, Wisconsinites want expansion and their Federal money now says lawmaker.

MILWAUKEE - Last week, Republican members of the Joint Committee on Finance released a memo highlighting their plans to strip multiple elements of Governor Evers' budget, most notably Medicaid expansion.

Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement in response.



"The refusal by my Republican colleagues to accept Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin willfully ignores some of the most vulnerable in our communities in all of Wisconsin, goes against the will of Wisconsin voters - 70% of Republicans, Democrats and Independents who support expansion - and also just makes bad money sense. Expanding Medicaid in Wisconsin would save us \$324 million dollars and bring in \$1.6 billion more in federal money with a big amount

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going to Republican districts. For a party that prides itself on 'fiscal responsibility,' it seems awfully irresponsible for Republicans to leave that much money on the table."

Republicans' continued refusal to accept Medicaid expansion has meant foregoing over \$1 billion in state-level savings and losing out on \$2.7 billion more in federal funding, all while other Republican-controlled states have gone forward with Medicaid expansion.

Rep. Bowen continued, "I was proud to stand behind Governor Evers at Milwaukee City Hall yesterday in support of this 'People's Budget' and expanding healthcare access for 82,000 of the most vulnerable across all 72 counties in our state. I will continue to support the budget priorities of this Governor and the people of our State, and I sincerely hope that Wisconsin Republicans can set aside ideological squabbles for the good of our State. I urge people across Wisconsin to call their legislators at (800) 362-9472 and let them know that they support this dollars and sense proposal!"