

Northern Wisconsinites Demand BadgerCare Expansion

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<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/caw-minocqua-public-hearing-2023-s446.png>



Healthcare advocacy group turns out at the final Joint Finance Committee public budget hearing Wednesday in Minocqua.

Minocqua: Citizen Action of Wisconsin members from Northern Wisconsin came out in force to advocate for BadgerCare Expansion at the final Joint Finance Committee public budget hearing today. They also participated in a pre-hearing press conference sponsored by Citizen Action.

Governor Evers' proposal to expand BadgerCare would close a critical health care coverage gap for nearly 90,000 Wisconsinites near the poverty line, bringing in over \$2 billion in additional federal health care investments. It would also save the state \$1.6 billion in General Purpose Revenue, which could be used for local public schools, shared revenue for underfunded counties, cities, and towns, child care, and other priorities.

Peggy McDowell, a Citizen Action member from Tomahawk, told her own BadgerCare Expansion story, resulting in spontaneous applause for her testimony. Due to Wisconsin's failure to Expand BadgerCare, after 47 years of marriage Peggy was forced to divorce her husband to become eligible for coverage. Peggy and her husband called it "living in sin for the win." Peggy told the committee she knows other women with breast cancer who have been forced to do the same in order to have coverage to support chemotherapy.

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Resident of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, who works in the health care industry and is a member of the Wisconsin Health Care Association.