

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

September 25, 2017

Governor Walker,

This week, the United States Senate is scheduled to consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill, which would effectively repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without providing a meaningful replacement. Today, over 230,000 Wisconsinites are enrolled in health plans under the ACA. While the numbers remain unclear due to the rushed attempt to move this legislation through the Senate without proper consideration, up to 32 million Americans nationally are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage under this plan.

Under the proposed Republican plan, states could allow insurers to charge patients with pre-existing conditions premiums so high that health insurance would be out of reach for many. Common examples of pre-existing conditions include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pregnancy, and depression. Additionally, states like Wisconsin would be allowed to determine whether insurance plans sold in the state must provide coverage for services that are considered essential health benefits—services like prescription drug coverage, maternity care, substance abuse treatment, and hospitalization.

Earlier this year, you failed to provide clarity on whether or not you will continue provisions enacted under the ACA which prohibit discriminating against individuals with pre-existing conditions. **Given the prospects that this legislation may move forward, we request you provide answers to whether you intend to maintain the requirement that insurance companies provide equal coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions and whether you will ensure that Wisconsinites will continue to have access to essential health benefits.**

We remain deeply concerned about the prospects of the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill and its impacts on Wisconsin residents. As you are aware, this legislation would effectively repeal the ACA, slash federal matching funds for Medicaid enrollees, and turn that into a block grant program over which your office would have primary jurisdiction. This legislation also repeals premium tax credits for many Wisconsinites currently enrolled in ACA plans, potentially causing a massive spike in premiums by 2020, or a significant drop in the number of Wisconsinites with insurance coverage.

Even more concerning is that by 2026, we will reach a funding cliff whereby our state will cease to receive this block grant. In addition, this legislation has caused uncertainty for our constituents who could lose coverage for essential health benefits like prescription drug coverage, laboratory tests, and maternity care, as well as face discrimination from insurance companies if they have a

pre-existing condition. According to one study, across the country, approximately half of non-elderly Americans have one or more pre-existing conditions.

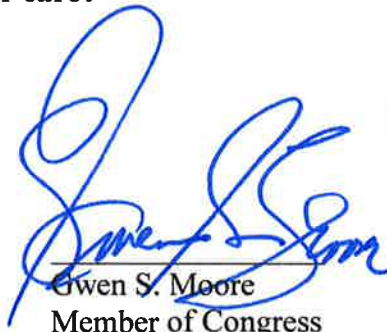
Given the prospect this legislation may pass the U.S. Senate this week, **we ask that you provide immediate clarity regarding your intentions to include protections for Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions while ensuring essential health benefits remain a right for all patients. Specifically, we ask that you answer the following questions:**

- (1) Will you unequivocally refuse to allow health insurance companies to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions by guaranteeing they are not unfairly priced out of the market?**
- (2) Will you guarantee that essential health benefits—including benefits that currently exist, such as drug coverage, maternity care, and emergency services—are covered for Wisconsinites?**
- (3) Under this bill, people with pre-existing conditions may have to pay more for their coverage. If this legislation is signed into law, will you commit to proposing changes to the Wisconsin legislature to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions do not pay more for their care?**

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress