

RESOLUTION NO. 5-0713

**RESOLUTION URGING WISCONSIN TO USE FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING
TO IMPROVE BADGERCARE**

TO THE HONORABLE IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Governor has rejected billions of new federal dollars for Medicaid which would have improved the state's BadgerCare program. The federal Affordable Care Act encourages innovation in states provided the goal is to ensure a greater level of health coverage. The decision to turn down federal funding for the State of Wisconsin, however, will not increase health care coverage; it actually makes it harder for people to qualify for BadgerCare. An estimated 88,000 adults who currently qualify for the program will be dropped.

WHEREAS, not only does the decision to reject federal Medicaid funding shrink the number of Wisconsin residents who have health care coverage, but it also increases the costs to the state for the program. If Medicaid were fully expanded, Wisconsin would have received \$4.4 billion in federal support over 6 years. However, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the state budget will require \$100 million more this budget cycle by rejecting these federal funds.

WHEREAS, in 2014 thousands of Medicaid recipients will be placed in private health insurance exchanges and required to pay premiums. The transition from Medicaid to private insurance and the premium cost could result in the loss of health care due to confusion and inability to pay.

WHEREAS, being underinsured and uninsured impacts County Human Services Departments because it can lead to untreated mental health or substance abuse and lack of preventive health care that can lead to loss of jobs, the inability to function and loss of self-sufficiency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature to accept enhanced federal Medicaid funding to improve the state's BadgerCare program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as an alternative, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors encourages the Governor and the Wisconsin Legislature to authorize and enable counties to enhance Medicaid funding at the county level, thereby ensuring their citizens in participating counties have access to affordable health coverage

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to Governor Walker, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Kitty Rhoades, U.S. Department of Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and the Iowa County state legislative delegation.

Respectfully submitted by the Health and Human Services Committee.