



**PRESS RELEASE
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Interview: Bobby Peterson (608) 444-7197; Brynne McBride (608) 279-2426 (cell)

Medicaid Expansion: An Editorial Critique

Madison, WI - “It took a while, but last week, the Wisconsin State Journal finally took a position, sort of, on the Walker administration’s decision to refuse federal Medicaid Expansion dollars,” says Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and Executive Director of ABC for Health. In a response to the Wisconsin State Journal’s Editorial titled, “Key Medicaid Number Still to Come,” Peterson says the Journal’s editorial, “sadly missed the mark on many fundamental points.”

On Tuesday, May 27, HealthWatch Wisconsin produced a special edition Editorial Response episode of the HealthWatch WatchDog. The web cast is available to the media and public at the following link:

<http://mediasite.safetyweb.org/Mediasite/Play/cb1d1303cecf4ea5bd6f477dcd35643d1d>

Peterson says the Wisconsin State Journal ignored the Wisconsin Fiscal Bureau estimates of additional, potentially lost, federal revenues that could exceed a billion dollars through the decade. Walker rejected that money. “That’s a lot of money that could support health care coverage in every Wisconsin County!” says Peterson. Moreover, Peterson says the paper failed to properly analyze Walker’s “fear” about vanishing federal dollars for Medicaid Expansion money. He continues, “Walker’s reasoning is not consistent, as he hasn’t turned down education, road, or defense money from the feds. In fact, the Legislative Audit Bureau identified over \$12.5 billion in federal dollars administered by Wisconsin over the last biennium.” Peterson says the editorial board looked the other way instead of analyzing the political nature of the decision and Walker’s positioning for a possible presidential run.

Peterson continues, “Instead of recognizing the policy flaws in Walker’s logic, and undisguised political ambition in his decision like many of the major editorial writers across the state, the WSJ presented a half-baked response that essentially says ‘watch and see’ in June.”

“The massive Medicaid and Marketplace changes caused by Walker’s decision will take months to resolve and only after much programmatic and political dust settles. Yes an election looms and we will certainly gain clarity by November 14th. Yet, the stubborn facts remain. The Walker administration created an unnecessary and more expensive corn maze eligibility process for low income people in Wisconsin. We expect better from the Governor and the Wisconsin State Journal,” concludes Peterson.

HealthWatch Wisconsin is a project of ABC for Health, Inc., 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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