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RESOLUTION #36-2013

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Social Services Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, the Governor has rejected billions of new federal dollars for Medicaid which would have improved the state's BadgerCare program; and

WHEREAS, the federal Affordable Care Act encourages innovation in states provided the goal is to ensure a greater level of health coverage; and

WHEREAS, 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.; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 88,000 adults who currently qualify for the program will be dropped; and

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; and

WHEREAS, if Medicaid were fully expanded, Wisconsin would have received \$4.4 billion in federal support over 6 years; and

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the state budget will require \$100 million more this budget cycle by rejecting these federal funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 thousands of Medicaid recipients will be placed in private health insurance exchanges and required to pay premiums; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Assembly Bill 53, and its companion, Senate Bill 38, requires the state to take action to qualify for enhanced Medicaid funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors urges the Wisconsin Legislature to support Assembly Bill 53 and Senate Bill 38 and accept enhanced federal Medicaid funding to improve the state's BadgerCare program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as an alternative, the Oneida 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; and

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 Oneida County state legislative delegation.

Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date:

Approved by the Social Services Committee this _____ day of _____, 2013.

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Consent Agenda Item: _____ YES _____ NO

Offered and passage moved by:

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

_____ Ayes
_____ Nays
_____ Absent
_____ Abstain
_____ Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this _____ day _____, 2013.

_____ Defeated

Mary Bartelt, County Clerk

Ted Cushing, County Board Chair