

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

While we have high quality health care in Wisconsin, rising health care costs continue to be a top business concern. Compounded by the increased costs brought on by the federal Affordable Care Act, offering health insurance has never been more expensive for employers. WMC believes Wisconsin should enact policies to help contain the cost of health care without damaging the high quality we enjoy.



MAINTAIN AN EMPLOYER-BASED SYSTEM

The employer-based health insurance system we currently enjoy is in everyone's best interest. When it becomes too expensive for employers to provide coverage, the workers are shifted to costly government programs, increasing the financial burden on taxpayers and further threatening provider reimbursements.



PROMOTE CONSUMER-DRIVEN HEALTH CARE AND ACCESS TO COST AND QUALITY DATA

Informed health care consumers create a competitive market. Wisconsin should continue down the path of providing access to transparent and easily understood medical cost and quality data to all consumers and payers, enabling informed health care decisions.



PROMOTE CONSUMER-EMPOWERING OPTIONS

Health Savings Accounts, Direct Primary Care and other options allow health care consumers to truly utilize available health care cost and health care quality data in order to make informed choices. The state, private employers and individuals should be encouraged to utilize insurance plans that empower consumers to make decisions based on cost and quality.



OPPOSE MEDICAID EXPANSION

The state should oppose efforts to expand Medicaid, and thereby increase the number of Wisconsinites receiving taxpayer-subsidized health insurance. Federal Medicaid dollars will decline over time, leaving state taxpayers responsible to pay for a large unfunded entitlement.



AVOID MANDATES THAT INCREASE INSURANCE COSTS

Although often well intended, mandating specific items that health insurance plans must cover increases insurance costs and should be avoided.



REPEAL & REPLACE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Affordable Care Act should be repealed and replaced with a consumer-driven system that maintains the current level of coverage in Wisconsin and protects providers from further cuts in Medicaid reimbursement.



REPEAL THE HEALTH INSURANCE TAX

When the misguided federal Affordable Care Act was passed, it included a tax on health insurance plans. The Health Insurance Tax (HIT) will cost \$260 billion over the next decade. If not addressed, the HIT will dramatically increase the cost of health insurance, impacting employers, individuals and all consumers of health insurance. WMC calls on Congress and the President to permanently repeal the HIT.



HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

Like many industries, the health care industry is facing workforce shortages that will only get worse in the coming years. If not addressed, the quality of care in our state could suffer. As Wisconsin addresses the overall worker shortage and skills gap, attention needs to be given to health care fields to ensure a continuing pipeline of talent.