



SAVE MEDICAID COALITION

Medical Assistance Providers and Advocates
Working Together to Protect Wisconsin's Most Vulnerable Citizens

Healthcare Professionals Urge Legislators to Oppose TPA-TABOR TPA-TABOR Could Increase “Hidden Healthcare Tax” and Threaten Quality Patient Care

The “Save Medicaid Coalition” -- which includes healthcare providers, physicians, nursing homes, long-term care organizations, and groups that serve persons with a disability – warned today that a TPA-TABOR Constitutional Amendment could have the unintended consequence of increasing the “Hidden Healthcare Tax” on Wisconsin businesses and the general public. In addition, TPA-TABOR could jeopardize access to care and the quality of care in Wisconsin’s healthcare system.

Many versions of the TPA-TABOR Constitutional Amendment now exist. However, each version fails to address the “Hidden Healthcare Tax” problem; fails to recognize that healthcare inflation has traditionally increased at a higher rate than allowed in any of the TPA-TABOR proposals; and fails to acknowledge that Wisconsin’s “Baby Boomer Generation” (age 65+) population will nearly double over the next 20 years, placing even greater pressure on an already under funded Medicaid program.

Wisconsin currently under funds Medicaid and other healthcare programs by nearly \$1 billion. TPA-TABOR will basically “lock-in” the current level of under funding, and over time that disparity will likely grow worse. This will force most MA providers, whose ability to “cost shift” is limited at best, either to begin to limit access to care and/or to make difficult operational/staffing cuts, both of which ultimately will impact patient care.

The failure to adequately fund Medicaid and other healthcare programs means that all other people with health insurance – and their employers -- will pay more to subsidize those losses, a “hidden healthcare tax” on those who pay insurance premiums. It is our fear that a proposal which seeks to control taxes will perpetuate the “Hidden Healthcare Tax” as part of our State Constitution.

Wisconsin’s healthcare professionals urge state lawmakers to oppose TPA-TABOR. TPA-TABOR will likely increase the “Hidden Healthcare Tax” and could jeopardize access to care and the quality of care in Wisconsin’s healthcare system.

Save Medicaid Coalition

For more information, please contact (608) 332-5205