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**Governor's Budget Undermines Wisconsin Women's Health, Wellbeing & Economic Security**  
*Creates Incredible Challenges to Reaching Goal to Raise the Status of Wisconsin Women's Health*

**Madison** – The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health expresses its deep concern and disappointment with Governor Walker's budget which makes severe cuts to essential women's health programs in our state.

"Without regard for its fiscal impact on the family budget or the state budget, Governor Walker's budget proposal puts the health, wellbeing and economic security of women and their families at risk by completely eliminating essential health care services," said Sara Finger, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. "The programs he's eliminating will make a small dent in our budget deficit yet have significant and tragic consequences for the huge number of women who depend on these critical preventive health care services."

The Governor's Budget proposal will:

- Eliminate BadgerCare coverage to families that earn more than 133% of the federal poverty level – a threshold of \$24,352 a year for a family of three – equating to about 55,000 adults who will lose coverage;
- Eliminate the Title V state family planning program, affecting 50 health care centers statewide that provide critical, life-saving and cost-saving health care like cervical, breast, and prostate cancer screening, well women exams, sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment, and access to contraception for tens of thousands of Wisconsin women and men;
- Reduce funding for Wisconsin's First Breath Program that has successfully helped pregnant women quit smoking and which has generated a cost savings of over one million dollars to the Medicaid program;
- Reduce funding for sexual assault victim services;
- Repeal Wisconsin's Contraceptive Equity Law, which in turn would allow insurance companies to discriminate against women by denying coverage for prescription birth control even when other prescriptions are covered; and
- Undermine the ability of partners to access preventive health care services together by removing uninsured men off the BadgerCare Family Planning Program which provides contraceptive counseling, cancer screenings, HIV and other sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment.

In addition to this week's proposed threats to Wisconsin's women's health, three weeks ago, the Governor also inappropriately introduced a Budget Repair Bill that proposed non-fiscal changes to Medicaid programs giving the Department of Health Services (DHS) the unilateral ability to change eligibility, benefits and cost-sharing without legislative approval or the opportunity for public input. At stake are the BadgerCare, FamilyCare, the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and SeniorCare programs that working women and families throughout Wisconsin depend on.

"No one denies that Wisconsin is facing challenging economic times, difficult budgetary choices and sacrifices must be made, yet our solutions to these problems must be inclusionary of the all individuals whose health and wellbeing are at stake, cannot be short sighted and need to be economically sound," says WAWH Executive Director, Sara Finger. "Sadly, the Governor's proposal fails to meet any of these principles and criteria."

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*The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance comprehensive women's health in Wisconsin by engaging, educating, empowering and mobilizing individuals and organizations. To learn more about WAWH, visit our website:*  
[www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)