

**For Immediate Release  
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**Health Care Reform is Key Women's Health Issue**

*First of five issues highlighted during National Women's Health Week*

Madison –To kick off National Women's Health Week, May 10 – 16, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) highlights the need for comprehensive health care reform to improve women's health.

To inspire advocacy and raise awareness, WAWH is collaborating with national women's health advocate organizations on the [Raising Women's Voices](#) campaign. The goal of the campaign is to ensure that women's concerns are addressed in the health care reform debate and that reform will truly be health care for everyone.

"Wisconsin women have much at stake in the debate over health care reform," said WAWH Director Sara Finger. "The current American health care system has consistently failed to provide access to needed care for many girls and women. It has also created tremendous challenges for the women who coordinate health care for our families."

**WAWH highlights the following reasons why health care reform is a key women's health issue:**

- 1. Women are more likely than men to need medical services.**
- 2. Women are less able than men to be able to afford medical services and supplies.**
- 3. Women are less likely than men to be offered employment-based health insurance. That is partly because women are more likely than men to work at part-time jobs.**
- 4. Many women are unable to work at jobs that provide health insurance because of the time they spend providing unpaid care to sick, disabled, very young, and very old family members.**
- 5. Women are vulnerable to losing health care coverage because of changes in marital status.**
- 6. Women are vulnerable to losing health care coverage because of state and federal budget cuts.**
- 7. Latinas, immigrant women, young women, and rural women face particularly severe obstacles to obtaining medical care.**

"To help ensure the health of Wisconsin women, we need to advocate for comprehensive reform which makes health care accessible and affordable to everyone in the state," Said Finger. "We urge all women's health advocates to learn about current proposals, engage in the critical debate, and to raise awareness of how health care reform is a key women's health issue"

To learn more about WAWH's efforts around health care reform, visit [www.raisingwiwomensvoices.org](http://www.raisingwiwomensvoices.org).

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*The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.*

*To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: [www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)*