Jessie McBurney

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March 22, 2012

Governor Scott Walker

115 East Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

I am a recent resident of Milwaukee County. I work as a registered nurse in an emergency department in a suburb of Milwaukee and I am writing to express my concern about the impact of poor dental hygiene on the children of Wisconsin. I understand that under BadgerCare Plus dental services are included.

However, I apprehend that Badge Care coverage is limited to $750 per enrollee per calendar year. I also understand that there is a $200 deductible for all services except preventative and diagnostic. In 2010, according to the Wisconsin Medicaid Program, out of 588,187 people aged 3-20 who are registered under the traditional BadgerCare fee-for-service program, only 28.3% of recipients received dental care. This is a concern for me because according to an article published in the New York Times on March 6th, 2012, preschoolers of all income levels are experiencing at least 6-10 cavities.

It is recommended by the American Pediatric Dental Association that children see a dentist at least twice a year starting with the first tooth or by age one. Many parents are unable to make this commitment due to the deductible and limited coverage. Poor dental hygiene can lead to heart disease, heart attacks, stroke, pain, discomfort, and nutritional problems.

Are these tradeoffs that we really want to make? With an increase in coverage and/or reduction in fees we can help prevent many illnesses and promote excellent oral hygiene for the citizens of Wisconsin. I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jessie McBurney, RN