

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 18, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201-0004

Dear Secretary Leavitt,

We write in support of Wisconsin's SeniorCare program.

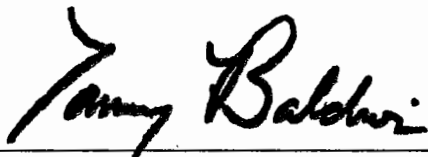
SeniorCare is pharmacy demonstration program, which has operated under a Medicaid Section 1115 waiver since 2002. The program provides affordable prescription drugs to Wisconsin residents aged 65 and over, with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. All participants pay an annual enrollment fee of \$30 as well as additional out-of-pocket expenses through copayments and income-based deductibles.

SeniorCare has been highly successful in providing our seniors with affordable prescription drugs. Currently, there are 91,000 Wisconsin seniors enrolled in SeniorCare, and since the program began, it has filled nearly 7 million prescriptions.

Additionally, SeniorCare has been successful in controlling prescription drug costs. According to a study released by AARP Wisconsin, SeniorCare costs the federal government nearly one-third less money than what will be spent on the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit for low-income seniors.¹ According to the report, the estimated cost to the federal government of the Medicare Part D benefit for low-income seniors in Wisconsin would be roughly \$67.1 million whereas federal Medicaid matching funds under SeniorCare would only total \$41.5 million. In addition, 94% of Wisconsin seniors will pay more for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D than they do now under SeniorCare.

Given SeniorCare's proven success, we strongly support SeniorCare and look forward to its continuation. Thank you for your attention to this vitally important program.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

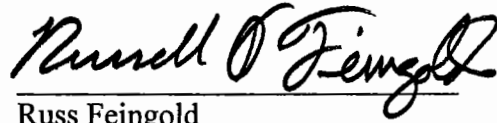


Ron Kind
Member of Congress

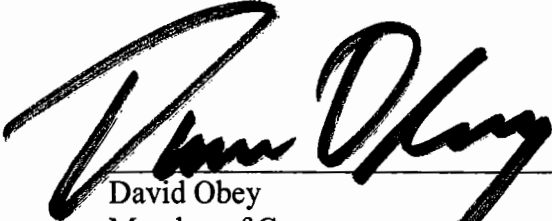
¹ "Wisconsin's SeniorCare Program and the New Medicare Drug Benefit: Analysis of the Impact of Medicare Part D and Options for Wisconsin's Low-Income Seniors." AARP Wisconsin. May 3, 2005.



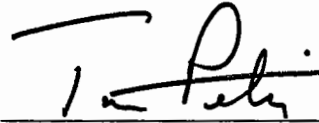
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



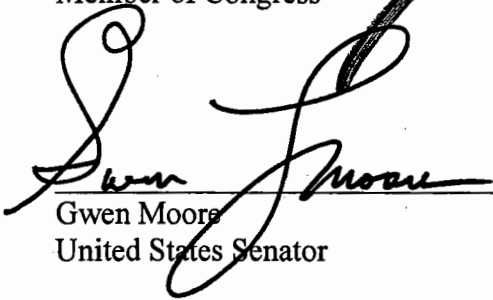
Russ Feingold
United States Senator



David Obey
Member of Congress



Thomas Petri
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
United States Senator