



**Greater Milwaukee Committee**

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**GREATER MILWAUKEE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES  
SUPPORT FOR HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT**

**March 13, 2008**

The Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC) announced today its support of the proposed Hospital Assessment to achieve the goal of providing access to affordable health care for Wisconsin residents.

The Hospital Assessment is aligned with the goals and objectives of the GMC's Healthcare Task Force, which has been working over the past four years to achieve access to affordable healthcare for Wisconsin residents, the support of federally qualified health centers, support for the continuation of the General Assistance Medical Programs (GAMP), increased reimbursement for physicians and hospitals and relief of cost shifting that occurs due to decreased Medicaid payments.

While the Hospital Assessment was rejected by the legislature last year, the State is now reconsidering the proposal in light of a substantial deficit that requires budget repair legislation. The Hospital Assessment proposed, imposing an assessment on hospitals as a way to improve Medicaid reimbursement rates for hospitals, proposes to leverage an estimated \$400 million in additional federal matching funds for the state Medicaid program. Southeastern Wisconsin hospitals would see a net gain of over \$156 million, which is critical to supporting the hospitals in the Milwaukee area that care for many people enrolled in Medicaid.

The GMC supports inclusion of the Hospital Assessment in the budget repair legislation to help reduce Wisconsin's Medicaid shortfall, help get its fair share of federal funds, and reduce the pass through health care costs that reduce accessibility to affordable health care for local businesses.

*For more information, please contact Julia Taylor or Rich Greene staff liaison for the Greater Milwaukee Committee's Healthcare Task Force, at 414-272-0588.*