



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 14, 2008
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
James A. Buchen, (608) 258-3400

**WMC Supports Attracting Increased Federal Funding for Medicaid
Hospital Assessment Attracts Federal Funds to Wisconsin**

MADISON – Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Friday announced that it will support a hospital assessment that will attract \$400 million in increased federal Medicaid payments to Wisconsin. “If the Legislature passes the proposed hospital assessment, our state will be able to attract \$400 million in increased Medicaid payments,” said James A. Buchen, vice president of government relations.

WMC is supporting the .7 percent gross receipts tax on hospitals, which is supported by the Wisconsin Hospitals Association and the Metropolitan Association of Commerce. WMC had previously opposed the proposal. WMC’s executive committee approved the change in position.

“Current underfunding of Medicaid is driving up health care costs for employers,” Buchen said. “Hospitals have not seen Medicaid reimbursement increases in 13 years and that has led to a hidden health care tax on employers as costs get shifted to private health care payers.”