



Wisconsin Health Care Association

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## **Baldwin, Kagen, Kind Praised for Helping to Stop Bush Medicare Cuts to Wisconsin**

### *Wisconsin Delegation Leads Successful Bipartisan Effort in Congress to Stop \$16.6 Million State Medicare Cut*

MADISON – The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) today praised U.S. Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Steve Kagen (D-WI) and Ron Kind (D-WI), a member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, for participating in a successful, bipartisan effort in Congress last week to stop the Bush Administration from moving forward with a Medicare regulation that would have cut Medicare-funded nursing home care by \$5 billion over the next five years and \$770 million in fiscal year 2009.

“The Bush Administration’s planned Medicare cuts threatened Wisconsin seniors’ access to quality health care throughout our state, and would have also had an impact on our state and local economy,” said WHCA Executive Director Tom Moore. “Representatives Baldwin, Kagen and Kind deserve enormous credit for their efforts in Washington to protect our long term care residents. Because of their independent thinking and decisive action, Wisconsin seniors will retain ready access to the high quality care they deserve.”

Medicare cuts from Washington would have damaged the strength and viability of Wisconsin’s Medicaid program. Wisconsin nursing homes currently rely on Medicare to help make up for chronic underfunding by the Medicaid program which is the source of payment for care provided to two-thirds of individuals residing in this state’s facilities. Wisconsin facilities lose an average of \$27.29 per day for every Medicaid beneficiary they serve – more than twice the national average of \$13 per patient day. The actions of Representatives Baldwin, Kagen and Kind helped to ensure Medicare reimbursements remain consistent and protect Wisconsin seniors from experiencing cuts of \$16.6 million in the year ahead.

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