

# Scott Walker

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## BELIEVE IN WISCONSIN AGAIN

September 27, 2010

John Sauer  
Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
204 South Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Sauer:

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to talk with those who work in long term care and meet with the families of those who depend on you. I salute all long term care workers for their deep commitment and dedication to those they serve. Without your organizations, many Wisconsin families would have few or no options for caring for frail family members.

During our meetings, I have become aware of many of the obstacles facing you as you provide the high level of care we all want and expect for our loved ones. I know that for years, there have been problems with the Department of Health Services, ranging from late payments, delayed payments, and the overall appearance of total disregard for those who care for others. It's time to clean house, I've done it before at the county and I'm willing to do it again in state government.

Under the Doyle Administration, tens of thousands of individuals receiving and providing care in Wisconsin's nursing facilities have been victimized by the use and abuse of the nursing home bed tax. As you know, I do not support imposition of new or expanded taxes on our state's already overburdened taxpayers. I also want you to know, however, that I have equal disdain for the misuse of taxes already being collected.

I am aware of the severity and impact of the Wisconsin Medical Assistance Program's underfunding for care provided to the state's most frail and elderly citizens in nursing homes. I consider the Administration's doubling of the bed tax over the past two years deplorable. I consider the Administration's use of bed tax payments made by facilities and residents for purposes other than improvement of resident care to be unethical.

I am fully cognizant of the consequences the program's fiscal failings have occasioned for all Wisconsin nursing home facilities, residents, care givers and their families. As Governor, I will work with you to restore integrity and equity to the state's tax system, including the bed tax. I will also support a complete review of the Department of Health Services to find solutions for real reform.

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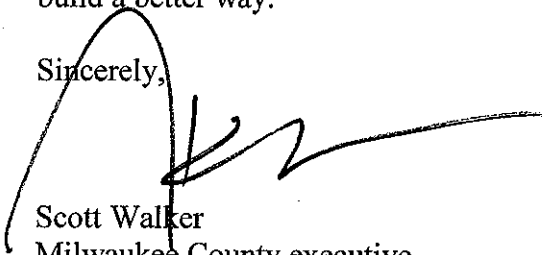
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**ScottWalker.org**

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Long Term Care Letter

Working together we can ensure quality of care to those who need us. Working together we can build a better way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Walker', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Scott Walker  
Milwaukee County executive  
Candidate for governor