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Wisconsin Women Win with Health Care Reform

First Round of Implementation Makes Positive Improvements for Women's Health

Madison – On the six month anniversary since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is working to help women understand what some key provisions taking effect today mean for them and their families.

Starting today, the following new changes in health care delivery will go into effect that will help Wisconsin women and their families:

- 1) Employees with family policies can opt for coverage of their adult children up to age 26 who are uninsured
- 2) Insurance companies will be required to cover preventive services for all people such as cancer screenings, immunizations and colonoscopies
- 3) Sick children cannot be turned down for coverage because of their condition
- 4) There will no longer be lifetime limits on essential benefits, so people can now get the health care they need without worrying about when they'll hit their "maximum" limit of coverage
- 5) Insurance companies will no longer be able to use "failure to report past health history" as a reason to rescind coverage, except in cases of fraud

For the past two years, WAWH has partnered with the national Raising Women's Voices campaign to ensure women's voices were heard in the health care reform debate. Following the passage of health care reform, WAWH has been working to develop resources to help Wisconsin women navigate through the implementation process.

"The existing health care system has consistently failed to provide access to needed care for many girls and women and has created tremendous challenges for the women who coordinate health care for their families," says Sara Finger, WAWH Executive Director. "Under the historic Affordable Care Act, good things are happening for women and families. The law is increasing access, affordability and protection for Wisconsin women and their families."

As the implementation continues over the next couple years, WAWH looks forward to additional improvements such as the creation of a new resource center aimed at providing consumers with the information they need to pick from a range of health care coverage options.

"We recognize that health care reform is a complex and intimidating issue," notes Finger. "But WAWH is dedicated to helping Wisconsin women make sense of things and looks forward to helping women take advantage of the many benefits the Affordable Care Act has to offer."

To view a copy of the *WAWH Health Care Reform 101 Guide*, please visit: www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance comprehensive women's health in Wisconsin by engaging, educating, empowering and mobilizing individuals and organizations.

To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org