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**Highlighting Health Care Reform as a Women's Health Issue**  
*First of five issues highlighted during National Women's Health Week*

Madison –To kick off National Women's Health Week, May 13 – 19, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) highlights the need for health care reform to improve women's health.

Recently, reports from the National Women's Law Center have brought light to the fact that women struggle more with the high cost of health care. Their report, *Women and Health Coverage: The Affordability Gap*, supports the following seven reasons why health care reform is a women's health issue:

- 1. Women are more likely than men to need medical services.**
- 2. Women are less able than men to be able to afford medical services and supplies.**
- 3. Women are less likely than men to be offered employment-based health insurance. That is partly because women are more likely than men to work at part-time jobs.**
- 4. Many women are unable to work at jobs that provide health insurance because of the time they spend providing unpaid care to sick, disabled, very young, and very old family members.**
- 5. Women are vulnerable to losing coverage because of changes in marital status.**
- 6. Women are vulnerable to losing health care coverage because of state and federal budget cuts.**
- 7. Latinas, immigrant women, young women, and rural women face particularly severe obstacles to obtaining medical care.**

"Women with health coverage are more likely to obtain needed preventive, primary and specialty care services they uniquely need," said WAWH Director Sara Finger. "Health care coverage is a critical factor in making health care accessible to women."

While women are more likely than men to have health coverage, both insured and uninsured women are more likely than men to report difficulty obtaining health care because of cost.

Health care continues to be key issue for Wisconsin residents. In response to the public concern with the current health care system, state legislative leaders are examining possible health care reform proposals in Wisconsin.

"To help ensure the health of Wisconsin women, we need to advocate for comprehensive reform which makes health care accessible and affordable to everyone in the state," said Finger. "We urge all women's health advocates to learn about current proposals and engage in the critical debate to reform health care in Wisconsin."

To learn more about health care reform efforts in Wisconsin, visit [www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org).

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*The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.  
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: [www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)*