



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
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**DAVID RIEMER TO BRING NATIONAL
PROFILE, EXPERTISE TO STATE
HEALTH CARE REFORM COMMITTEE**

RECENT POLICY WORK CENTERS ON HEALTH CARE EXCHANGES

Milwaukee (July 19, 2010)—David R. Riemer, Director of the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, has been chosen as a member of the Wisconsin Legislative Council Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation.

The committee will study and make recommendations to the State Legislature on what changes Wisconsin should make in response to recently enacted federal health care reform legislation. It will also study all aspects of the federal legislation that affect Wisconsin including insurance market reforms, coverage for uninsured persons, preventive care and quality improvement.

The 21-member committee, made up of seven legislators and 14 public members, will be co-chaired by Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Waunakee) and Rep. Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee), and co-vice chaired by Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Rep. Kitty Rhoades (R-Hudson).

“I’m honored to have been chosen to serve on this committee,” said Riemer. “While the recent national health insurance reform legislation was a tremendous step forward to insuring all Americans, there are many issues we must resolve so that Wisconsin’s citizens can take full advantage of the new law’s many benefits. Wisconsin also has a unique opportunity to design a health insurance exchange that can actually succeed in controlling health care costs.”

“Wisconsin has a long history of providing health care to its citizens,” Riemer added. “I’m confident that the many talented members of this new committee, both elected and public, will work in that tradition to improve our state’s health care system.”

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Legislative Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation / Add One

Riemer has been active for many years in reshaping state and national policies on health care. During the run-up to national health care reform, he played a prominent role in advocating for the inclusion of strong health insurance exchanges based on the Dane County, Wisconsin Model:

- On June 29 he published an Op-Ed in the New York Times, “The Only Public Health Plan We Need,” co-authored with Alain Enthoven, Emeritus Professor of Public and Private Management at Stanford University. In the Op-ed he argued that exchanges that effectively organize the three most essential market forces—choice, competition and incentives—could successfully reduce health care costs and improve the quality of care.

- Riemer was subsequently invited by the National Institute of Medicine, Washington, D.C. in July 2009, and by Stanford University in April 2010, to make presentations on “Effective Health Insurance Exchanges: The Dane County, Wisconsin Model.”

- In fall 2009 he joined a group of national experts—Enthoven; Joseph J. Minarik, the Committee for Economic Development’s Senior Vice President and Director of Research; and consultant Bill Kramer—to advise members of the U.S. House and Senate on the importance of strong exchanges.

Riemer was one of the original architects of BadgerCare, the Medicaid program for Wisconsin’s low-income families, and has long advocated for the expansion of BadgerCare to childless adults, the state’s most chronically uninsured population. As Director of Administration for former Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist, Riemer was instrumental in fashioning BadgerCare in 1997 as well as helping to obtain a federal waiver two years later.

Riemer served from 2004-07 as Director of the Wisconsin Health Project, where he worked to lower the number of Wisconsin’s uninsured and control health care costs. The grant-funded project was responsible for developing bipartisan legislation that influenced the Healthy Wisconsin proposal approved in 2007 by the State Senate.

Riemer previously worked for Sen. Edward Kennedy’s Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, developed health policy options for the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, prepared a report on Wisconsin’s uninsured for the state Department of Health and Social Services, and worked on health care cost containment issues for Time Insurance Company.

The committee will hold its first meeting in Room 411 South, State Capitol, Madison at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 19.

The full membership of the Legislative Council Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation can be found at www.ca-ppi.org/documents/HC_Reform_Comm.pdf

Community Advocates’ Public Policy Institute has clear and simple goals: To explain why so many Milwaukeeans are poor, and to develop and implement a practical strategy to reduce poverty throughout Wisconsin.