



WI-SEN WATCH

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RESEARCH REPORT:

Leah Vukmir Has Sold Out Wisconsin Seniors and Future Retirees

Executive Summary:

During her time in Wisconsin's state legislature, U.S. Senate candidate Leah Vukmir has sold out our state's seniors and future retirees, repeatedly voting against and blocking legislation that would benefit that older Wisconsinites. Among other things, Vukmir blocked multiple bills funding Alzheimer's and dementia care, research, and treatment, and she's also backed phasing out SeniorCare, which helps Wisconsin seniors get prescription drugs at a discounted rate.

As Vukmir has run for U.S. Senate, she's defended that legislative record while also embracing broad, deep cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid (which [covers 5 in 9](#) Wisconsin nursing home residents), to offset tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

Vukmir has also centered her campaign on repealing the Affordable Care Act, while backing replacement plans that would gut protections for Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions and impose an "age tax" that would let insurance companies charge older Americans more.

Here's an overview of Vukmir's record of selling out Wisconsin seniors and future retirees:

- **Blocking and Opposing Alzheimer's and Dementia Care, Research, and Treatment Funding:** During the 2015-2016 biennial, Vukmir, as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, blocked multiple bills to improve and increase funding for Alzheimer's and dementia care, treatment, and research. Vukmir allowed multiple bills to die in her committee by refusing to hold a vote, including, [2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), [2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), [2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), [2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), and [2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), which would have provided \$50,000 to the UW-Madison Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.
- **Supporting Eliminating SeniorCare:** In 2005, Vukmir supported eliminating SeniorCare, Wisconsin's prescription drug assistance program that is "[designed to help seniors with their prescription drug costs](#)." In 2007, Vukmir again supported phasing out the program.
- **Supporting Deep Cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and BadgerCare:** Last year, Vukmir [said that Paul Ryan-style cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid](#) were "[certainly on the table](#)." Vukmir suggested the cuts were necessary following the passage of the Republican tax law that sends more than 80 percent of benefits to the richest Americans and large corporations like Exxon and Big Pharma giant Pfizer.
- **Supporting an "Age Tax" Health Care Repeal Plan:** Vukmir has centered her U.S. Senate campaign around her pledge to repeal the Affordable Care Act and gut its protections for Wisconsinites who have pre-existing conditions. Vukmir has stated her support for Republican repeal plans like [Graham-Cassidy](#) and [the AHCA](#), which the AARP says would impose an "age tax," allowing insurance companies to charge older Americans more for coverage. Vukmir also supports the proliferation of short-term "junk" insurance plans that the AARP similarly says allow insurance companies to charge older Americans more.

VUKMIR BLOCKED BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO FUND ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA TASK FORCE

August 2015: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Set Up By Republicans To Improve Care Of Wisconsinites Suffering From Alzheimer's And Dementia

August 2015: Assembly Speaker Robin Vos Set Up A Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia To Study The Diseases And Produce Policy Recommendations

August 2015: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Created By Wisconsin Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos

August 2015: Task Force Was Created By Wisconsin Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. "The Task Force was created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos on August 4, 2015, to study and make recommendations on policy initiatives to improve the care of those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia. Specifically, the Speaker presented the Task Force with a number of goals, including identifying ways to improve and sustain in-home care, improving and promoting community-based resources for those suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia, continuing raising individual and community awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia, and determining ways to ensure future quality of care while lowering the cost of long-term care." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Wisconsin State Journal: "The Bills Were The Product Of A Bipartisan Task Force Created By Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester..." "The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Republican Representative Rohrkaste: "This Is An Issue That Hits Everybody And It Is Something That I Think Will Really Be A Great Opportunity For Both Sides To Work Together To Deal With Issues In The State That Can Be Very Personal And Very Impactful To Families." [Youtube, "Rohrkaste – Alzheimer's and Dementia Task Force, [09/25/2015](#)] (VIDEO)

Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Designed To Study And Make Policy Recommendations To Improve Care For Wisconsinites Suffering From Dementia

Task Force Final Report: Task Force Was Created "To Study And Make Recommendations On Policy Initiatives To Improve The Care Of Those Suffering From Alzheimer's And Dementia"

Task Force Final Report: Task Force Was Created “To Study And Make Recommendations On Policy Initiatives To Improve The Care Of Those Suffering From Alzheimer’s And Dementia.”

“The Task Force was created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos on August 4, 2015, to study and make recommendations on policy initiatives to improve the care of those suffering from Alzheimer’s and dementia. Specifically, the Speaker presented the Task Force with a number of goals, including identifying ways to improve and sustain in-home care, improving and promoting community-based resources for those suffering with Alzheimer’s and dementia, continuing raising individual and community awareness of Alzheimer’s and dementia, and determining ways to ensure future quality of care while lowering the cost of long-term care.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Speaker’s Task Force On Alzheimer’s And Dementia Held Public Hearings And Toured Long-Term Care Facilities To Inform Policy Recommendations.

“The Task Force held six public hearings to receive testimony from invited speakers and the public, and toured several long-term care facilities. The hearings and tours of the Task Force were held on the following dates and in the following locations...” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Speaker’s Task Force Developed “Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package” From Findings

Speaker’s Task Force Developed The “Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package” From Findings.

“Based on information and recommendations received at the Task Force’s public hearings and tours, members of the Task Force and other legislators introduced 10 bills, collectively referred to as the ‘Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package.’ Three of the bills introduced by the Task Force, relating to funding for caregiver respite, funding for mobile crisis unit training, and developing a pilot program to ensure individuals with dementia who are experiencing a crisis are placed in an appropriate setting, were enacted into law.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **“Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package” Consisted Of Ten Bills Introduced Into The Wisconsin Legislature.** “Based on information and recommendations received at the Task Force’s public hearings and tours, members of the Task Force and other legislators introduced 10 bills, collectively referred to as the ‘Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package.’ Three of the bills introduced by the Task Force, relating to funding for caregiver respite, funding for mobile crisis unit training, and developing a pilot program to ensure individuals with dementia who are experiencing a crisis are placed in an appropriate setting, were enacted into law.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 783

In August 2015, Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos set up a bipartisan task force to study Alzheimer’s and dementia care in Wisconsin and make policy recommendations on how to improve the care for Wisconsinites suffering from the diseases.

In January 2016, members of the Alzheimer's and Dementia Task Force introduced a package of ten bills in the Wisconsin Assembly. The package included Assembly Bill 783 which provided new funding for a program to create awareness and understanding of dementia through a virtual simulation. 2015 Assembly Bill 783 was referred to, and passed unanimously by, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform.

In February 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance unanimously voted to advance Assembly Bill 783 to the full Wisconsin Senate. State Senator Leah Vukmir also supported Assembly Bill 783 in the Joint Committee on Finance. The measure later passed the Wisconsin Assembly unanimously.

Also in February 2016, the Wisconsin Senate received Assembly Bill 783 and referred it to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which was chaired by Leah Vukmir at the time.

2015 Assembly Bill 783 was not voted on by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and did not receive a public committee hearing.

In April 2016, Assembly Bill 783 died in Vukmir's committee after the Wisconsin Senate leadership expressed concerns about the cost of the Wisconsin Cares legislative package.

January 2016: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Introduced 2015 Assembly Bill 785 In Wisconsin Assembly To Fund Alzheimer's And Dementia Virtual Awareness And Understanding Program

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly. "The Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia is introducing ten, bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases by providing community-based resources and education. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top ten that can't be prevented, treated or cured, according to the Alzheimer's Association. 'This is a serious long-term problem and we need some real solutions to help the growing number of Wisconsinites and their families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia,' said Task Force Chair Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). 'This legislative package is hopefully just the beginning of our efforts to ensure quality care while keeping costs under control.'" [Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia, Press Release, [01/20/2016](#)]

January 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly As Part Of The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package

January 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Introduced Into The Wisconsin Assembly. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/22/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Listed As A Piece Of The Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package In The Speaker's Task Force Final Report.** "TASK FORCE LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED: Seven of the Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package bills, described in detail below, were passed by the Assembly, but were not acted upon by the Senate. 2015 Assembly Bill 783, Relating to a Virtual Dementia Tour License. [...] The Bill: Assembly Bill 783, as amended, provides DHS with a one-time \$50,000 appropriation increase for the purpose of purchasing a VDT license. Bill History: Assembly Bill 783 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representatives Tittl and Katsma." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Assembly Bill 783 Provided Funding For Program To Create Awareness And Understanding Of Dementia Through Virtual Program

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Provided Funding For Program To Create Awareness And Understanding Of Dementia Through Virtual Program. "Background A 'virtual dementia tour' (VDT) is an interactive program that simulates what an individual with dementia would experience. Use of the tool is intended to increase awareness of the disease and promote an understanding of what individuals living with dementia experience. During the VDT, participants wear gloves, shoe inserts, goggles, and headphones with confusion sounds to simulate the experiences of an individual with dementia. These restraints are believed to mimic the moderate stage of dementia, in which affected individuals have persistent memory loss and can no longer hide their condition. Participants are asked to complete numerous day-to-day activities while wearing these modalities to mimic what day-to-day life is like for an individual with dementia. The VDT was developed by Second Wind Dreams, a nonprofit organization that provides training and licensing for VDTs. The Bill Assembly Bill 783, as amended, provides DHS with a one-time \$50,000 appropriation increase for the purpose of purchasing a VDT license." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/22/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Passed Unanimously By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Passed Unanimously By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Passed In A Unanimous Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform (10-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 8, 2016: Vukmir Supported Assembly Bill 783 In The Joint Committee On Finance

February 8, 2016: Vukmir Voted For 2015 Assembly Bill 783 In The Joint Committee On Finance

Vukmir Voted For 2015 Assembly Bill 783 In The Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Passed The Joint Committee On Finance In A Unanimous Vote (14-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In Unanimous Vote As Part Of The “Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package”

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In Unanimous Vote

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In Unanimous Vote (94-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 727, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Never Voted Against By A Legislator On The Floor Or In Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

The Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously

The Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed The Assembly Unanimously, Including Bill To Increase Alzheimer’s And Dementia Research Funding At UW . “Dementia and Alzheimer’s: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. The 10

bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope."

The Republican Speaker Of The State Assembly Emphasized The Importance Of Passing The Alzheimer's And Dementia Bill Package. "Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope." "The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester. Vos emphasized Thursday the importance of the package of bills, that were approved 94-0. 'What we do (today), especially with those folks who are dealing with Alzheimer's, is giving them hope,' Vos said." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Received In The Wisconsin Senate And Referred To Health And Human Services Committee Chaired By Vukmir

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Received And Referred To The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Received From The Assembly By The Senate. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 759, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 768, [02/18/2016](#)]

Vukmir Was The Chair Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services In The 2015 Legislative Session. “Health and Human Services — Vukmir, chairperson; Moulton, vice chairperson; LeMahieu; Carpenter*, Erpenbach.” [2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, Accessed [09/25/2018](#)]

March 2016: Republican Senate Leadership Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Despite Unanimous Assembly Votes

Wisconsin Senate Leaders Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed By Assembly

Republican Senate Leaders Declined To Take Up Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Due To Concerns About Cost. “The bills would create a county-based dementia crisis unit pilot program; allocate an additional \$1 million for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program; and create state grants for dementia training for county crisis teams. The bills were part of a 10-proposal dementia package Assembly Republicans developed. That chamber passed the entire package but only three bills made it out of the Senate. Republicans who control that chamber said they were worried about spending too much money. Walker planned to sign the bills Tuesday in Green Bay at Options for Independent Living, an organization that helps the elderly and the disabled live on their own. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive.” [Associated Press, [03/22/2016](#)]

The Senate Didn’t Take Up Full Alzheimer’s Research Package From Assembly. “The Senate also plans to take up only three of 10 Assembly bills designed to help people deal with dementia. The bills that didn't make the calendar include measures to fund virtual dementia tours, provide more funding for Alzheimer's research at University of Wisconsin-Madison, require informed consent before administering psychotropic medications in nursing homes and require reviews of Silver Alert subjects' driver's licenses. Silver Alerts are public bulletins about missing senior citizens. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive.” [Associated Press, [03/14/2016](#)]

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Died In Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir Without Receiving A Public Committee Hearing Or Committee Vote

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired. “Assembly Bill 783 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representatives Tittl and Katsma. On February 1, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 0. On February 4, 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended passage of the bill, as

amended, on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0. On February 18, 2016, the Assembly passed the bill on a vote of Ayes, 94; Noes, 0. On February 23, 2016, Assembly Bill 783 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, but did not receive a public hearing.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Failed Pursuant To Senate Joint Resolution 1. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), Wisconsin Senate Journal 856, [04/13/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Received A Public Committee Hearing

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Received A Public Committee Hearing. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee

2015 Assembly Bill 783 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 783](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 785

In August 2015, Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos set up a bipartisan task force to study Alzheimer’s and dementia care in Wisconsin and make policy recommendations on how to improve the care for Wisconsinites suffering from the diseases.

In January 2016, members of the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Task Force introduced a package of ten bills in the Wisconsin Assembly. The package included Assembly Bill 785 which created a dementia specialist certification program.

In February 2016, Assembly Bill 785 was referred to, and passed unanimously by, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform. The Wisconsin Assembly then passed 2015 Assembly Bill 785 on a voice vote by the full Assembly.

Later in February 2016, the Wisconsin Senate received Assembly Bill 785 and referred it to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which was chaired by Leah Vukmir at the time.

2015 Assembly Bill 785 was not voted on by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and did not receive a public committee hearing.

In April 2016, Assembly Bill 785 died in Vukmir’s committee after the Wisconsin Senate leadership expressed concerns about the cost of the Wisconsin Cares legislative package.

January 2016: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Introduced 2015 Assembly Bill 785 In Wisconsin Assembly To Create A Dementia Specialist Certification Died In Vukmir's Committee Without Receiving A Public Hearing

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly. "The Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia is introducing ten, bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases by providing community-based resources and education. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top ten that can't be prevented, treated or cured, according to the Alzheimer's Association. 'This is a serious long-term problem and we need some real solutions to help the growing number of Wisconsinites and their families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia,' said Task Force Chair Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). 'This legislative package is hopefully just the beginning of our efforts to ensure quality care while keeping costs under control.'" [Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia, Press Release, [01/20/2016](#)]

January 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly As Part Of The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/22/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Listed As A Piece Of The Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package In The Speaker's Task Force Final Report.** "TASK FORCE LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED: Seven of the Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package bills, described in detail below, were passed by the Assembly, but were not acted upon by the Senate. 2015 Assembly Bill 783, Relating to a Virtual Dementia Tour License. [...] Bill History Assembly Bill 785 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representatives Rohrkaste and Hesselbein." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Created A Dementia Specialist Certification

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Created A Dementia Specialist Certification. "Background: The Task Force heard testimony from numerous individuals and organizations stressing the difficulty long-term care facilities face with employee recruitment and retention. Additionally, testimony heard by the Task Force indicated that many certified nursing assistants and other health care professionals lack the training necessary to care for individuals with dementia. Skilled and trained staff are needed to interpret what individuals with dementia are trying to communicate in order to provide better care and prevent crises. The Bill: Assembly Bill 785, as amended,

creates a dementia specialist certification. Under the bill, a person who successfully completes an instructional program that provides certain instruction relating to care for individuals with dementia must be certified as a dementia specialist by the instructional program administrator. The bill specifies that no person may use the title 'dementia specialist' or 'certified dementia specialist' without the certification." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 532, [01/22/2016](#)]

February 5, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Passed Unanimously By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Passed Unanimously By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Passed In A Unanimous Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform (10-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 580, [02/05/2016](#)]

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 785 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In A Unanimous Vote

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Passed Unanimously By The Wisconsin Assembly

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Passed In A Unanimous Voice Vote. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 728, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Never Voted Against By A Legislator On The Floor Or In Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously

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2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Received From The Assembly By The Senate. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 759, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 768, [02/18/2016](#)]

Vukmir Was The Chair Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services In The 2015 Legislative Session. “Health and Human Services — Vukmir, chairperson; Moulton, vice chairperson; LeMahieu; Carpenter*, Erpenbach.” [2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, Accessed [09/25/2018](#)]

March 2016: Republican Senate Leadership Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Despite Unanimous Assembly Votes

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not receive a public hearing.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 785 Failed Pursuant To Senate Joint Resolution 1.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]
- **2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services While Vukmir Was Chair Of The Committee.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 785](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

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2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 788

In August 2015, Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos set up a bipartisan task force to study Alzheimer’s and dementia care in Wisconsin and make policy recommendations on how to improve the care for Wisconsinites suffering from the diseases.

In January 2016, members of the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Task Force introduced a package of ten bills in the Wisconsin Assembly. The package included Assembly Bill 788 which increased funding for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to hire four additional dementia care specialists.

In February 2016, Assembly Bill 788 was referred to, and passed unanimously by, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform.

In February 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance unanimously voted to advance Assembly Bill 788 to the full Wisconsin Senate. State Senator Leah Vukmir also supported Assembly Bill 788 in the Joint Committee on Finance. The Wisconsin Assembly then passed 2015 Assembly Bill 788 in a unanimous floor vote.

Later in February 2016, the Wisconsin Senate received Assembly Bill 788 and referred it to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which was chaired by Leah Vukmir at the time.

2015 Assembly Bill 788 was not voted on by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services but did receive a public committee hearing.

In April 2016, Assembly Bill 788 died in Vukmir's committee after the Wisconsin Senate leadership expressed concerns about the cost of the Wisconsin Cares legislative package.

January 2016: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Introduced 2015 Assembly Bill 788 In Wisconsin Assembly To Increase Funding For DHS To Hire Four Additional Dementia Care Specialists

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly. "The Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia is introducing ten, bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases by providing community-based resources and education. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top ten that can't be prevented, treated or cured, according to the Alzheimer's Association. 'This is a serious long-term problem and we need some real solutions to help the growing number of Wisconsinites and their families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia,' said Task Force Chair Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). 'This legislative package is hopefully just the beginning of our efforts to ensure quality care while keeping costs under control.'" [Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia, Press Release, [01/20/2016](#)]

January 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly As Part Of The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 532, [01/22/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Listed As A Piece Of The Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package In The Speaker's Task Force Final Report.** "TASK FORCE LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED: Seven of the Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package bills, described in detail below, were passed by the Assembly, but were not acted upon by the Senate. 2015 Assembly Bill 783, Relating to a Virtual Dementia Tour License. [...] Bill History: Assembly Bill 788 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representatives Novak and Meyers." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Increased Funding For DHS To Hire Four Additional Dementia Care Specialists

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Increased Funding For DHS To Hire Four Additional Dementia Care Specialists. “The Bill: Assembly Bill 788, as amended, increases funding to DHS for fiscal year 2016-17 to authorize the hiring of four additional dementia care specialists in counties with a population under 150,000. The bill also increases funding to DHS to fill one additional position for the training of dementia care specialists to educate employers about issues relating to dementia with their employees and family members of employees.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 532, [01/22/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed In A Unanimous Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed In A Unanimous Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed In A Unanimous Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 8, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed Unanimously By The Joint Committee On Finance And Supported By State Senator Vukmir

February 8, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed Unanimously By The Joint Committee On Finance

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed Unanimously By The Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Supported By Leah Vukmir In The Joint Committee On Finance

Vukmir Voted For 2015 Assembly Bill 788 In The Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In A Unanimous Vote

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed Unanimously By The Wisconsin Assembly

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Passed In A Unanimous Voice Vote. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 728, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Never Voted Against By A Legislator On The Floor Or In Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously

The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed The Assembly Unanimously, Including Bill To Increase Alzheimer's And Dementia Research Funding. "Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope."

The Republican Speaker Of The State Assembly Emphasized The Importance Of Passing The Alzheimer's And Dementia Bill Package. "Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-

Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: “What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope.” “The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester. Vos emphasized Thursday the importance of the package of bills, that were approved 94-0. ‘What we do (today), especially with those folks who are dealing with Alzheimer's, is giving them hope,’ Vos said.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Received In The Wisconsin Senate And Referred To Health And Human Services Committee Chaired By Vukmir

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Received And Referred To The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Received From The Assembly By The Senate. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 760, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 785 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 768, [02/18/2016](#)]

Vukmir Was The Chair Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services In The 2015 Legislative Session. “Health and Human Services — Vukmir, chairperson; Moulton, vice chairperson; LeMahieu; Carpenter*, Erpenbach.” [2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, Accessed [09/25/2018](#)]

March 2016: Republican Senate Leadership Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Despite Unanimous Assembly Votes

Wisconsin Senate Leaders Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed By Assembly

Republican Senate Leaders Declined To Take Up Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Due To Concerns About Cost. “The bills would create a county-based dementia crisis unit pilot program; allocate an additional \$1 million for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program; and create state grants for dementia training for county crisis teams. The bills were part of a 10-proposal dementia package Assembly Republicans developed. That chamber passed the entire package but only three bills made it out of the Senate. Republicans who control that chamber said they were worried about spending too much money. Walker planned to sign the bills Tuesday in Green Bay at Options for Independent Living, an organization that helps the elderly and the disabled live on their own. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive.” [Associated Press, [03/22/2016](#)]

The Senate Didn't Take Up Full Alzheimer's Research Package From Assembly. "The Senate also plans to take up only three of 10 Assembly bills designed to help people deal with dementia. The bills that didn't make the calendar include measures to fund virtual dementia tours, provide more funding for Alzheimer's research at University of Wisconsin-Madison, require informed consent before administering psychotropic medications in nursing homes and require reviews of Silver Alert subjects' driver's licenses. Silver Alerts are public bulletins about missing senior citizens. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive." [Associated Press, 03/14/2016]

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 788 Died In Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir Without Receiving A Public Committee Hearing Or Committee Vote

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired. "Assembly Bill 788 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representatives Novak and Meyers. On February 1, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 0. On February 4, 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0. On February 18, 2016, the Assembly passed the bill on a vote of Ayes, 94; Noes, 0. On February 23, 2016, Assembly Bill 788 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, but did not receive a public hearing." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 788 Failed Pursuant To Senate Joint Resolution 1.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]
- **2015 Assembly Bill 788 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services While Vukmir Was Chair Of The Committee.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Increased Funding For DHS To Hire Four Additional Dementia Care Specialists. "The Bill: Assembly Bill 788, as amended, increases funding to DHS for fiscal year 2016-17 to authorize the hiring of four additional dementia care specialists in counties with a population under 150,000. The bill also increases funding to DHS to fill one additional position for the training of dementia care specialists to educate employers about issues relating to dementia with their employees and family members of employees." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Received A Public Committee Hearing

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Received A Public Committee Hearing. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 788](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 791

In August 2015, Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos set up a bipartisan task force to study Alzheimer’s and dementia care in Wisconsin and make policy recommendations on how to improve the care for Wisconsinites suffering from the diseases.

In January 2016, members of the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Task Force introduced a package of ten bills in the Wisconsin Assembly. The package included Assembly Bill 791 which required nursing homes to provide additional information to residents before administering psychotropic medication.

In February 2016, Assembly Bill 791 was referred to, and passed by in a 6-4 vote, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform. The Wisconsin Assembly then passed 2015 Assembly Bill 791 in a voice vote.

Later in February 2016, the Wisconsin Senate received Assembly Bill 791 and referred it to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which was chaired by Leah Vukmir at the time.

2015 Assembly Bill 791 was not voted on by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and did not receive a public committee hearing.

In April 2016, Assembly Bill 791 died in Vukmir’s committee after the Wisconsin Senate leadership expressed concerns about the cost of the Wisconsin Cares legislative package.

January 2016: Alzheimer’s And Dementia Task Force Introduced 2015 Assembly Bill 791 In Wisconsin Assembly To Required Nursing Homes To Provide Additional Information To Residents Before Administering Psychotropic Medication

January 2016: Speaker’s Task Force On Alzheimer’s And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly

January 2016: Speaker’s Task Force On Alzheimer’s And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly. “The Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia

is introducing ten, bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases by providing community-based resources and education. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top ten that can't be prevented, treated or cured, according to the Alzheimer's Association. 'This is a serious long-term problem and we need some real solutions to help the growing number of Wisconsinites and their families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia,' said Task Force Chair Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). 'This legislative package is hopefully just the beginning of our efforts to ensure quality care while keeping costs under control.'" [Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia, Press Release, [01/20/2016](#)]

January 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly As Part Of The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 532, [01/22/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Listed As A Piece Of The Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package In The Speaker's Task Force Final Report.** "TASK FORCE LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED: Seven of the Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package bills, described in detail below, were passed by the Assembly, but were not acted upon by the Senate. 2015 Assembly Bill 783, Relating to a Virtual Dementia Tour License. [...] Assembly Bill 791 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representative Rohrkaste." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Required Nursing Homes To Provide Additional Information To Residents Before Administering Psychotropic Medication

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Required Nursing Homes To Provide Additional Information To Residents Before Administering Psychotropic Medication. "Current Wisconsin law requires that a nursing home must generally obtain informed consent before administering a psychotropic medication. This requires that the resident or the person acting on their behalf has been provided with specific, complete, and accurate information, and time to study the information or to seek additional information concerning the medication. There is no such requirement for a CBRF. [...] Assembly Bill 791, as amended, requires that when first administering a psychotropic medication with a boxed warning to a resident with a degenerative brain disorder, a CBRF must provide to the resident, or, if the resident is incapacitated, email or mail to the person acting on behalf of the resident, an informational form." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Referred To The Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 532, [01/22/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Passed In A 6-4 Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Passed In A 6-4 Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Passed In A 6-4 Vote By The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 580, [02/05/2016](#)]

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In A Unanimous Vote

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Passed Unanimously By The Wisconsin Assembly

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Passed In A Unanimous Voice Vote. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 730, [02/18/2016](#)]

The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously

The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed The Assembly Unanimously, Including Bill To Increase Alzheimer's And Dementia Research Funding. "Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope."

The Republican Speaker Of The State Assembly Emphasized The Importance Of Passing The Alzheimer’s And Dementia Bill Package. “Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: “What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope.” “The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester. Vos emphasized Thursday the importance of the package of bills, that were approved 94-0. ‘What we do (today), especially with those folks who are dealing with Alzheimer's, is giving them hope,’ Vos said.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Received In The Wisconsin Senate And Referred To Health And Human Services Committee Chaired By Vukmir

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Received And Referred To The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Received From The Assembly By The Senate. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 760, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 769, [02/18/2016](#)]

Vukmir Was The Chair Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services In The 2015 Legislative Session. “Health and Human Services — Vukmir, chairperson; Moulton, vice chairperson; LeMahieu; Carpenter*, Erpenbach.” [2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, Accessed [09/25/2018](#)]

March 2016: Republican Senate Leadership Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Despite Unanimous Assembly Votes

Wisconsin Senate Leaders Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed By Assembly

Republican Senate Leaders Declined To Take Up Full Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Due To Concerns About Cost. “The bills would create a county-based dementia crisis unit pilot program; allocate an additional \$1 million for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program; and create state grants for dementia training for county crisis teams. The bills were part of a 10-proposal dementia package Assembly Republicans developed. That chamber passed the entire package but only three bills made it out of the Senate. Republicans who control that chamber said they were worried about spending too much money. Walker planned to sign the bills Tuesday in Green Bay at Options for Independent Living, an organization that helps the elderly and the disabled live on their own. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive.” [Associated Press, [03/22/2016](#)]

The Senate Didn’t Take Up Full Alzheimer’s Research Package From Assembly. “The Senate also plans to take up only three of 10 Assembly bills designed to help people deal with dementia. The bills that didn't make the calendar include measures to fund virtual dementia tours, provide more funding for Alzheimer's research at University of Wisconsin-Madison, require informed consent before administering psychotropic medications in nursing homes and require reviews of Silver Alert subjects' driver's licenses. Silver Alerts are public bulletins about missing senior citizens. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive.” [Associated Press, [03/14/2016](#)]

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 791 Died In Vukmir’s Committee Without Receiving A Public Hearing

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired. “Assembly Bill 791 was introduced on January 22, 2016, by Representative Rohrkaste. On February 1, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform recommended passage of the bill on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 4. On February 18, 2016, the Assembly passed the bill on a voice vote. On February 23, 2016, Assembly Bill 791 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, but did not receive a public hearing.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 791 Failed Pursuant To Senate Joint Resolution 1.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

Vukmir Temporarily Coauthored AB 791’s Senate Companion Measure Before Withdrawing The Motion And Letting The Bill Die In Her Committee

2015 Senate Bill 748 Was Introduced As A Companion Measure To 2015 Assembly Bill 791. [[2015 Senate Bill 748](#), Bill Summary, Accessed [09/22/2018](#)]

2015 Senate Bill 748 Was Referred To The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Senate Bill 748](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/22/2018](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 791 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee

2015 Assembly Bill 788 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 791](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

VUKMIR OPPOSED AND BLOCKED BILL GIVING \$50,000 TO UW ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH CENTER

In August 2015, Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos set up a bipartisan task force to study Alzheimer's and dementia care in Wisconsin and make policy recommendations on how to improve the care for Wisconsinites suffering from the diseases.

In January 2016, members of the Alzheimer's and Dementia Task Force introduced a package of ten bills in the Wisconsin Assembly. The package included Assembly Bill 784 providing \$50,000 in funding to the UW-Madison Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Six organizations lobbied on behalf of 2015 Assembly Bill 784, no organizations lobbied against the legislation.

Later in January 2016, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform held a public committee hearing where multiple patient advocacy representatives and bipartisan Assembly members registered and appeared in support of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. No groups or representatives appeared in opposition to the legislation.

In February 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance voted to advance Assembly Bill 784 to the full Wisconsin Senate. State Senator Leah Vukmir was the only member of the Joint Committee on Finance to vote against Assembly Bill 784 in committee. The measure later passed the Wisconsin Assembly unanimously.

In March 2016, the Wisconsin Senate received Assembly Bill 784 and referred it to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which was chaired by Leah Vukmir at the time.

Also in March 2016, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services held a public committee hearing where multiple patient advocacy representatives and Assembly members registered and appeared in support of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. No groups or representatives appeared in opposition to the legislation.

In April 2016, Assembly Bill 784 died in Vukmir's committee after the Wisconsin Senate leadership expressed concerns about the cost of the Wisconsin Cares legislative package. 2015 Assembly Bill 784 was never voted on by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

August 2015: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Set Up By Republicans To Improve Care Of Wisconsinites Suffering From Alzheimer's And Dementia

August 2015: Assembly Speaker Robin Vos Set Up A Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia To Study The Diseases And Produce Policy Recommendations

August 2015: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Created By Wisconsin Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos

August 2015: Task Force Was Created By Wisconsin Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos.

"The Task Force was created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos on August 4, 2015, to study and make recommendations on policy initiatives to improve the care of those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia. Specifically, the Speaker presented the Task Force with a number of goals, including identifying ways to improve and sustain in-home care, improving and promoting community-based resources for those suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia, continuing raising individual and community awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia, and determining ways to ensure future quality of care while lowering the cost of long-term care."

[Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Wisconsin State Journal: "The Bills Were The Product Of A Bipartisan Task Force Created By Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester..." "The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Republican Representative Rohrkaste: "This Is An Issue That Hits Everybody And It Is Something That I Think Will Really Be A Great Opportunity For Both Sides To Work Together To Deal With Issues In The State That Can Be Very Personal And Very Impactful To Families."

[Youtube, "Rohrkaste – Alzheimer's and Dementia Task Force, [09/25/2015](#)] (VIDEO)

Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Was Designed To Study And Make Policy Recommendations To Improve Care For Wisconsinites Suffering From Dementia

Task Force Final Report: Task Force Was Created "To Study And Make Recommendations On Policy Initiatives To Improve The Care Of Those Suffering From Alzheimer's And Dementia"

Task Force Final Report: Task Force Was Created "To Study And Make Recommendations On Policy Initiatives To Improve The Care Of Those Suffering From Alzheimer's And Dementia."

"The Task Force was created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos on August 4, 2015, to study and

make recommendations on policy initiatives to improve the care of those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia. Specifically, the Speaker presented the Task Force with a number of goals, including identifying ways to improve and sustain in-home care, improving and promoting community-based resources for those suffering with Alzheimer's and dementia, continuing raising individual and community awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia, and determining ways to ensure future quality of care while lowering the cost of long-term care." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Held Public Hearings And Toured Long-Term Care Facilities To Inform Policy Recommendations. "The Task Force held six public hearings to receive testimony from invited speakers and the public, and toured several long-term care facilities. The hearings and tours of the Task Force were held on the following dates and in the following locations..." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

January 2016: Alzheimer's And Dementia Task Force Introduced 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In Wisconsin Assembly To Increase Funding For UW-Madison's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Speaker's Task Force Developed "Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package" From Findings

Speaker's Task Force Developed The "Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package" From Findings. "Based on information and recommendations received at the Task Force's public hearings and tours, members of the Task Force and other legislators introduced 10 bills, collectively referred to as the 'Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package.' Three of the bills introduced by the Task Force, relating to funding for caregiver respite, funding for mobile crisis unit training, and developing a pilot program to ensure individuals with dementia who are experiencing a crisis are placed in an appropriate setting, were enacted into law." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **"Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package" Consisted Of Ten Bills Introduced Into The Wisconsin Legislature.** "Based on information and recommendations received at the Task Force's public hearings and tours, members of the Task Force and other legislators introduced 10 bills, collectively referred to as the 'Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package.' Three of the bills introduced by the Task Force, relating to funding for caregiver respite, funding for mobile crisis unit training, and developing a pilot program to ensure individuals with dementia who are experiencing a crisis are placed in an appropriate setting, were enacted into law." [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]
- **Bipartisan State Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Produced Package Of Bills To Fund New Alzheimer's Research.** "A package of bills that would help people cope

with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly

January 2016: Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia Introduced A Package Of Ten Bills In The Wisconsin Assembly. "The Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia is introducing ten, bipartisan bills to improve the care of those suffering from these diseases by providing community-based resources and education. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top ten that can't be prevented, treated or cured, according to the Alzheimer's Association. 'This is a serious long-term problem and we need some real solutions to help the growing number of Wisconsinites and their families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia,' said Task Force Chair Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah). 'This legislative package is hopefully just the beginning of our efforts to ensure quality care while keeping costs under control.'" [Speaker's Task Force On Alzheimer's And Dementia, Press Release, [01/20/2016](#)]

January 2016: Assembly Bill 784 Was Introduced As Part Of The Alzheimer's And Dementia Package

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Introduced In The Wisconsin Assembly. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/22/2016](#)]

- **Legislation That Included "\$50,000 In Additional Funding Annually For Alzheimer's Research At UW-Madison" Was Product Of Bipartisan Task Force.** "A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia cleared the Assembly on Thursday. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to purchase licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. [...] The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Assembly Bill 784 Appropriated \$50,000 In Additional Funding For UW-Madison's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Provided Additional Funding For The UW-Madison Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center. “Background: The Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at UW-Madison is one of 31 such centers funded by the National Institute on Aging within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These centers work to translate research advances into improved diagnosis and care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease with the long-term goal of finding methods to cure and to prevent the disease. The Bill: Assembly Bill 784 increases the UW System’s general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation for general program operations by \$50,000 in 2016-17 to provide funding for the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at UW-Madison.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

Six Advocacy Groups Lobbied For 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Six Advocacy Groups Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

AARP Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [02/01/2016](#)]

Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance Of Wisconsin Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [01/26/2016](#)]

Greater Wisconsin Agency On Aging Resources Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [02/05/2016](#)]

PROFS Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [01/29/2016](#)]

State Bar Of Wisconsin Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [02/01/2016](#)]

Wisconsin Health Care Association Inc. Lobbied For Passage Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, [01/25/2016](#)]

Wisconsin Ethics Commission Did Not Record Any Groups As Lobbying Against 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Wisconsin Ethics Commission Did Not Record Any Groups As Lobbying Against 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [Wisconsin Ethics Commission, Eye on Lobbying, Accessed [09/22/2018](#)]

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

January 22, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform.
[[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/22/2016](#)]

January 25, 2016: The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Held A Public Committee Hearing For 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Where It Received Only Positive Support

January 25, 2016: The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Held A Public Committee Hearing For 2015 Assembly Bill 784

The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Held A Public Committee Hearing For 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Held A Public Committee Hearing For 2015 Assembly Bill 784. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 531, [01/25/2016](#)]

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784:

Appearances For

- Representative Diane Hesselbein - 79th District
- Jon Hoelter - Department of Health Services
- Helen Marks Dicks - AARP WI
- Janet Zander - Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources
- Tom Hlavacek - Alzheimer's Association

[[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [01/25/2016](#)]

Health Care Stakeholders And Republican Representatives Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Health Care Stakeholders And A Republican Representative Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Health Care Stakeholders And Republican Representatives Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784:

Registrations For

- Representative Mike Rohrkaste - 55th Assembly District
- Representative Debra Kolste - 44th Assembly District
- Senator Tim Carpenter
- Rob Gunderman - ADAW
- Tim McGinn - Wi Health Care/WICAL
- Jenifer Fischer Kamenick - Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin
- Susan Fadness - AARP
- James Lamont - AARP
- Tom Frazier - WI Aging Advocacy Network
- Wilma Lamont - AARP
- George Senteney - AARP
- Richard Crary - AARP

[[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [01/25/2016](#)]

Democratic Representative Hesselbein Submitted A Letter To The Committee In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Democratic Representative Hesselbein On Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package: “The Bills Will Provide Support, Protection, And The Promise Of Prevention And Possible Treatments Through Research”

Democratic Representative Hesselbein On Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package: “The Bills Will Provide Support, Protection, And The Promise Of Prevention And Possible Treatments Through Research”:

Each piece of legislation will meet a real need – the kinds of needs that were expressed to us at our hearings, often tearfully, by the caregivers and families of patients who have Alzheimer’s or dementia. The bills will provide support, protection, and the promise of prevention and possible treatments through research.

[Testimony of Representative Diane Hesselbein, [01/25/2016](#)]

UW Chancellor Rebecca Blank Wrote A Message In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

UW Chancellor Rebecca Blank Wrote A Message In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

UW Chancellor Rebecca Blank: “Every Day At The University Of Wisconsin-Madison, The Best And Brightest Engage To Help Improve The Lives Of Wisconsin’s Citizens. [...] Research Is Crucial To Finding Treatments And Cures”:

“Every day at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the best and brightest engage in research to help improve the lives of Wisconsin’s citizens. We know Alzheimer’s disease and dementia impact the lives of many people in the state, from patients to caregivers and their families. Research is crucial to finding treatments and cures. We are grateful to the Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia for its proposal to increase funding for these diseases in Wisconsin.”

Mr. Chairman, I ask that this committee give AB 784 and all of the Wisconsin Cares legislation unanimous support, and although I’m happy to answer any questions.

[Testimony of Representative Diane Hesselbein, [01/25/2016](#)]

No Groups Or Representatives Appeared Or Registered In Opposition To 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

No Groups Or Representatives Appeared Or Registered In Opposition To 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform

No Groups Or Representatives Appeared Or Registered In Opposition To 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [01/25/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Passed The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Unanimously

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Passed The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Unanimously

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Passed The Assembly Committee On Mental Health Reform Unanimously (10-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 2, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

February 2, 2016: Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To The Joint Committee On Finance

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To Joint Committee On Finance. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 561, [02/02/2016](#)]

February 8, 2016: Vukmir Voted Against Bipartisan Legislation In The Joint Finance Committee To Study Alzheimer's And Dementia Recommended By Republican Leadership Task Force

February 8, 2016: Vukmir Was The Only Legislator On The Joint Committee On Finance To Vote Against Assembly Bill 784

Vukmir Voted Against Legislation In The Joint Finance Committee To Provide \$50,000 To UW-Madison For Alzheimer's And Dementia Research. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Senate Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

- **Joint Finance Committee Voted 13-1 To Advance Assembly Bill 784 To Provide \$50,000 To UW-Madison For Alzheimer's And Dementia Research.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Senate Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee Advanced Assembly Bill 784 To Provide \$50,000 To UW-Madison For Alzheimer's And Dementia Research In 13-1 Vote. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Senate Journal 586, [02/08/2016](#)]

Vukmir Was The Only Legislator In The Joint Finance Committee To Vote Against Giving \$50,000 To The Alzheimer's Disease Research Center At The University Of Wisconsin-Madison. “The Wisconsin Legislature's budget committee voted Thursday to expand funding to tackle substance abuse and dementia, as lawmakers work within a tighter-than-expected budget in the session's final days. [...] The committee also voted to approve about \$3.6 million in funding to fight and treat Alzheimer's and dementia. Bills included in the package would fund Alzheimer's research, respite care and dementia care specialists. The package passed unanimously with the exception of a bill providing \$50,000 to the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which Sen. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, voted against.” [The Chippewa Herald, 02/05/2016]

Associated Press: “The Only Legislator To Cast A ‘No’ Vote On Any Of Them Was Sen. Leah Vukmir.” “They also would devote \$1.37 million in ongoing funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The committee adopted all the bills Thursday. The only legislator to cast a ‘no’ vote on any of them was Sen. Leah Vukmir. She voted against the UW-Madison bill.” [Associated Press, [03/22/2016](#)]

Vukmir Said She Voted Against The Alzheimer’s Grant Because She Couldn’t “Give More Money To An Institution That Uses Tissue From Aborted Fetuses”

Vukmir Said She Voted Against 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Because She Couldn’t “Give More Money To An Institution That Uses Tissue From Aborted Fetuses.” “The only bill that didn't pass the committee unanimously was the UW-Madison research measure. Sen. Leah Vukmir, a Wauwatosa Republican, cast the lone vote against it, saying she couldn't bring herself to give more money to an institution that uses tissue from aborted fetuses in its research.” [Associated Press, [02/04/2016](#)]

February 18, 2016: Bill Funding Alzheimer’s Research At UW Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously As Part Of “Wisconsin Cares Legislative Package”

February 18, 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In Unanimous Vote As Part Of Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Passed The Wisconsin Assembly In Unanimous Vote (94-0). [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly Journal 727, [02/18/2016](#)]

The Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed The Wisconsin Assembly Unanimously

The Alzheimer’s And Dementia Package Passed The Assembly Unanimously, Including Bill To Increase Alzheimer’s And Dementia Research Funding At UW . “Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10

bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope."

The Republican Speaker Of The State Assembly Emphasized The Importance Of Passing The Alzheimer's And Dementia Bill Package. "Dementia and Alzheimer's: A package of bills that would help people cope with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The 10 bills lay out \$50,000 to buy licenses for a virtual dementia tour, an educational tool that simulates the effect dementia has on a person; \$50,000 in additional funding annually for Alzheimer's research at UW-Madison; and \$1 million in additional money annually for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program. They also devote \$1.37 million in annual funding to support four more dementia care specialists spread across small counties and a state specialist trainer; and an additional \$250,000 for state grants for training local crisis teams to help dementia sufferers. The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who emphasized Thursday the importance of the package, approved 94-0." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

Speaker Vos: "What We Do (Today), Especially With Those Folks Who Are Dealing With Alzheimer's, Is Giving Them Hope." "The bills were the product of a bipartisan task force created by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester. Vos emphasized Thursday the importance of the package of bills, that were approved 94-0. 'What we do (today), especially with those folks who are dealing with Alzheimer's, is giving them hope,' Vos said." [Wisconsin State Journal, [02/18/2016](#)]

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Received In The Wisconsin Senate And Referred To Health And Human Services Committee Chaired By Vukmir

March 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Received And Referred To The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Received From The Assembly By The Senate. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly 759, [02/18/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Was Referred To Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), 2015 Wisconsin Assembly 768, [02/23/2018](#)]

Vukmir Was The Chair Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services In The 2015-2016 Legislative Session. “Health and Human Services — Vukmir, chairperson; Moulton, vice chairperson; LeMahieu; Carpenter*, Erpenbach.” [2015-2016 Wisconsin Blue Book, Accessed [09/25/2018](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Received A Public Hearing In The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Where It Elicited Only Positive Support From Registrants

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Received A Public Committee Hearing

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Received A Public Committee Hearing

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Received A Public Committee Hearing. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Patient Advocacy Representatives And Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Appeared In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784:

Appearances For

- Janet Zander - Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
- Rob Gundermann - ADAW
- Rep. Dianne Hesselbein - 79th Assembly District
- Tim Carpenter - 3rd State Senate

[[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [03/03/2016](#)]

Health Care Stakeholders And A Republican Representative Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Health Care Stakeholders And A Republican Representative Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784

Health Care Stakeholders And A Republican Representative Registered In Support Of 2015 Assembly Bill 784:

Registrations For

- Erin Elliott - UW Health
- Mike Rohrkaste - 55th Assembly District
- Helen Marks Dicks - AARP

[[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [03/03/2016](#)]

No Groups Or Representatives Opposed 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services

No Groups Or Representatives Opposed 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services

No Groups Or Representatives Registered Or Appeared In Opposition To 2015 Assembly Bill 784 In The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Record of Committee Proceedings, [03/03/2016](#)]

March 2016: Republican Senate Leadership Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Despite Unanimous Assembly Votes

Wisconsin Senate Leaders Expressed Concerns About Cost Of Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Passed By Assembly

Republican Senate Leaders Declined To Take Up Full Alzheimer's And Dementia Package Due To Concerns About Cost. "The bills would create a county-based dementia crisis unit pilot program; allocate an additional \$1 million for the state's Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program; and create state grants for dementia training for county crisis teams. The bills were part of a 10-proposal dementia package Assembly Republicans developed. That chamber passed the entire package but only three bills made it out of the Senate. Republicans who control that chamber said they were worried about spending too much money. Walker planned to sign the bills Tuesday in Green Bay at Options for Independent Living, an organization that helps the elderly and the disabled live on their own. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive." [Associated Press, [03/22/2016](#)]

The Senate Didn't Take Up Full Alzheimer's Research Package From Assembly. "The Senate also plans to take up only three of 10 Assembly bills designed to help people deal with dementia. The bills that didn't make the calendar include measures to fund virtual dementia tours, provide more funding for Alzheimer's research at University of Wisconsin-Madison, require informed consent before administering psychotropic medications in nursing homes and require reviews of Silver Alert subjects' driver's licenses. Silver Alerts are public bulletins about missing senior citizens. Tanck [Fitzgerald spokeswoman] said those bills are too expensive." [Associated Press, 03/14/2016]

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Died In Senate Committee On Health And Human Services Chaired By Vukmir Without Receiving A Vote

April 2016: 2015 Assembly Bill 784 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Never Made It Out Of The Senate Committee On Health And Human Services, Which Vukmir Chaired. “On February 1, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform recommended passage of the bill on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 0. On February 4, 2016, the Joint Committee on Finance recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0. On February 18, 2016, the Assembly passed the bill on a vote of Ayes, 94; Noes, 0. On February 23, 2016, Assembly Bill 784 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, but did not receive a public hearing.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

- **2015 Assembly Bill 784 Failed Pursuant To Senate Joint Resolution 1.** [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]
- **2015 Assembly Bill 784 Provided Additional Funding For The UW-Madison Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.** “Background: The Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at UW-Madison is one of 31 such centers funded by the National Institute on Aging within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These centers work to translate research advances into improved diagnosis and care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease with the long-term goal of finding methods to cure and to prevent the disease. The Bill: Assembly Bill 784 increases the UW System’s general purpose revenue (GPR) appropriation for general program operations by \$50,000 in 2016-17 to provide funding for the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at UW-Madison.” [Wisconsin State Assembly, Report of the Speaker’s Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia, [06/14/2016](#)]

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee

2015 Assembly Bill 784 Never Received A Vote In The Senate Health And Human Services Committee. [[2015 Assembly Bill 784](#), Bill History, Accessed [09/19/2018](#)]

VUKMIR SUPPORTED ENDING SENIORCARE, WHICH PROVIDES PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

Vukmir Supported Phasing Out “SeniorCare” In Wisconsin To Pay Off The State’s Debt.

“SeniorCare is funded through a mix of drug manufacturers’ rebates and state and federal dollars. Some Republican legislators have discussed cutting SeniorCare from the two-year state budget that starts in July. They say the state could use the savings as it grapples with a \$1.6 billion deficit, brought on by shrinking revenue. ‘We have to phase this program out,’ said committee member Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, during the Medicaid committee’s standing-room-only meeting. She stressed she supports seniors, but ‘the question just becomes if we’re duplicating services.’” [Associated Press, 5/4/05]

Vukmir Was “OK” With SeniorCare (A Medicare-Part-D-Equivalent Program) Expiring In Wisconsin. “Now, more than 100,000 state residents are enrolled SeniorCare. When the federal government came up with Medicare Part D, most of Wisconsin's elderly found that they had a better deal with SeniorCare. To ensure they could keep it that way, state officials successfully petitioned the federal government to allow SeniorCare to continue. But that waiver is set to expire at the end of June and state officials aren't finding the federal government receptive to extending the waiver to 2010. [...] There are some in the state Legislature who are OK with expiration of the waiver. Rep. Leah Vukmir, a Republican from Wauwatosa who chairs the Assembly Committee on Health and Health Care reform, says Wisconsin shouldn't seek an extension and should instead follow along with every other state that has joined the Medicare program. [The Sheboygan Press, 3/5/07]

Vukmir Said SeniorCare Was As Good As Dead. “Meanwhile, after a recent meeting with US Health Secretary staffers, Congressman Steve Kagen (D-Appleton) said another waiver to extend SeniorCare doesn't look hopeful at all. And State Representative Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) had recently sent out a press release saying that SeniorCare is as good as dead, so we should plan accordingly.” [Wisconsin Radio Network, 3/18/07]

Vukmir Supported Ending SeniorCare And Transitioning To Medicare Rx. “SeniorCare is Wisconsin's Prescription Drug Assistance Program for residents who are 65 years of age and older. Last year more than 108,000 Wisconsin Senior's benefited from the program and lowered their out- of-pocket costs for drugs. According to Governor Doyle, ‘SeniorCare saved Wisconsin Seniors \$200 million in prescription drug costs in 2006, and was a better choice than the Medicare Part D drug benefit for about 95 percent of those participating.’ According to a press release from February 13 from Senator Feingold's office, ‘SeniorCare costs the federal government only \$617 per participant compared to \$1,174 per participant for Medicare Part D program.’ Many government officials disagree on the future of the program. A press release from the office of State Rep. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) noted, ‘SeniorCare was created under a five-year federal waiver to provide affordable prescription drugs to lower-income seniors at a time when no other programs were available. The waiver, set to expire in June, leaves Wisconsin as the last and only state in the country still running its own prescription drug program for seniors. Every other state has made the transition to Medicare Rx.’” [The Daily Press, 4/2/07]

VUKMIR BACKED PLANS THAT WOULD LET HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES CHARGE OLDER AMERICANS MORE FOR COVERAGE

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT (AHCA)

VUKMIR SUPPORTED THE AHCA AND CALLED IT A “FIRST STEP”

Vukmir: “The American Health Care Act Ensures A Stable Transition Away From The Affordable Care Act.” ““After more than six years of Obamacare, 28 million people remain uninsured and premiums have gone up year after year,’ said Wisconsin Senator Leah Vukmir. ‘The American Health Care Act ensures a stable transition away from the Affordable Care Act, and it is imperative Congress works to loosen federal requirements on states so they may have greater authority over how they deliver healthcare – only then can there be true reforms.’” [ALEC, Press Release, [3/7/17](#)]

UNDER THE AHCA, OLDER WISCONSINITES AND WISCONSINITES WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS’ PREMIUMS WOULD INCREASE BY THOUSANDS PER YEAR

The AHCA Would Have Caused The Cost Of Premiums To Spike For Older Wisconsinites.

According to an AARP analysis of the AHCA: “The bill discriminates against 6.1 million Americans ages 50-64 in the individual (non-group) health insurance market by allowing insurance companies to charge older people five times or more what others pay for the same coverage. At the same time, it significantly reduces tax credits now available to lower and middle-income older persons to help pay premium costs. [...] Changes to age rating and tax credits would significantly increase premiums. A 55-year-old in Wisconsin earning \$25,000 annually could see her premium increase by as much as \$5,900. A 64-year-old in Wisconsin earning \$25,000 annually could see his premium increase by as much as \$10,254.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

- **A 64-Year-Old In Wisconsin Earning \$25,000 Annually Could See A Premium Increase By As Much As \$10,254.** According to an AARP analysis of the AHCA: “The bill discriminates against 6.1 million Americans ages 50-64 in the individual (non-group) health insurance market by allowing insurance companies to charge older people five times or more what others pay for the same coverage. At the same time, it significantly reduces tax credits now available to lower and middle-income older persons to help pay premium costs. [...] Changes to age rating and tax credits would significantly increase premiums. A 55-year-old in Wisconsin earning \$25,000 annually could see her premium increase by as much as \$5,900. A 64-year-old in Wisconsin earning \$25,000 annually could see his premium increase by as much as \$10,254.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

The AHCA Would Have Removed Protections For People With Pre-Existing Conditions, Resulting In Cost Increases. According to an AARP analysis of the AHCA: “The bill removes protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. It would allow insurance companies to once again charge higher premiums based on a person’s health condition (known as medical underwriting), significantly raising premiums and making health care unaffordable. If Wisconsin chooses to establish a high-risk pool, Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions would face

premiums of \$29,727 or more in 2019.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

- **If Wisconsin Established A High-Risk Pool Under The AHCA, Wisconsinites With Pre-Existing Conditions Would Face Premiums Of \$29,727 Or More In 2019.** According to an AARP analysis of the AHCA: “The bill removes protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. It would allow insurance companies to once again charge higher premiums based on a person’s health condition (known as medical underwriting), significantly raising premiums and making health care unaffordable. If Wisconsin chooses to establish a high-risk pool, Wisconsinites with pre-existing conditions would face premiums of \$29,727 or more in 2019.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

70 Percent Of Wisconsinites Ages 50-64 Would See Increased Health Care Costs Under The AHCA. “It allows states to waive current standards for minimum coverage (known as Essential Health Benefits) allowing insurers to sell less comprehensive, potentially even skimpy coverage. The bill also weakens current protections that ensure a person doesn’t end up with catastrophic out-of-pocket costs. This weakening includes the requirement that insurance companies must limit consumers’ annual out-of-pocket costs (such as deductibles and copays). It also includes the ban on insurance companies setting caps on how much they would cover annually, or over a person’s lifetime. [...] The bill can also increase costs for 840,123 (or 70 percent of) Wisconsinites ages 50-64 who receive coverage through their employer, by weakening current limits on their out-of-pocket costs.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

The AHCA Cut Over \$800 Billion From Medicaid, Which Could Hurt The Over 1 Million Wisconsinites That Relied On Medicaid. “The bill creates a capped financing structure in the Medicaid program and cuts \$839 billion – nearly 25 percent over ten years. Both per capita cap and block grant financing would likely shift significant costs to states, state taxpayers, and families. The bill could lead to cuts in provider payments, program Detailed source information available at: <http://bit.ly/2qvESpS> eligibility, services, or all of the above – ultimately harming some of our nation’s most vulnerable citizens. In 2017, more than 1,039,000 Wisconsinites received health coverage and long-term services and supports (LTSS) through Medicaid.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

UNDER THE AHCA, 24 MILLION AMERICANS AND 400,000 WISCONSINITES WOULD LOSE INSURANCE

CBO: 24 Million Americans Would Lose Insurance Under The AHCA. “On Monday, the Congressional Budget Office scored the American Health Care Act, projecting that the new Republican health reform would make dramatic changes to the American health-care landscape. On the one hand, the law would cut the deficit by over \$300 billion over 10 years

and reduce average premiums after an initial two-year increase. On the other, the office projected that 24 million additional people would either lose health insurance or choose to go without it in the next decade.” [The Atlantic, [3/14/17](#)]

414,600 Wisconsinites Would Lose Health Insurance Because Of The AHCA. According to an AARP analysis of the AHCA: “414,600 Wisconsinites will lose coverage by 2026 as a result of the bill.” [AARP Public Policy Institute, Impact of the American Health Care Act On Wisconsin, June [2017](#)]

GRAHAM-CASSIDY

VUKMIR SUPPORTED GRAHAM-CASSIDY

Vukmir Backed Graham-Cassidy. “Top Republicans in Wisconsin are backing a sweeping, final-hour effort to repeal Obamacare and hold down spending in other health care programs for the needy that existed prior to Obamacare. U.S. Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson has stopped just short of saying he supports this latest Senate legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but his GOP primary opponent, Leah Vukmir, backs the bill known as Graham-Cassidy.” [Oshkosh Northwestern, 9/23/17]

Vukmir Said She Was Disappointed That Graham-Cassidy Failed. VUKMIR: “Alright so let’s start with families. Certainly I think that one of the first things - there are couple things - I’m disappointed that the Graham-Cassidy bill didn’t go through, oh I should go back to this. I’m disappointed - we’re talking about families - I’m disappointed that Graham-Cassidy didn’t go through. Was it perfect? Was it true federalism? No. Because the taxes remain in place.” [Fox Valley Conservative Forum, 10/3/17]

GRAHAM-CASSIDY WOULD LET INSURERS CHARGE OLDER AMERICANS MORE

AARP: Graham-Cassidy Would Impose An “Age Tax” On Older Americans. According to an AARP analysis of the Graham-Cassidy bill, “The legislation would impose an “age tax” on older Americans by eliminating two sources of financial assistance that help make health coverage affordable and accessible. First, Graham-Cassidy would take away the premium tax credits that help seniors pay for health coverage. About 6 million 50- to 64-year-olds buy their health coverage in the individual market, and about half of those individuals receive tax credits to help pay their premiums, according to an analysis by the AARP Public Policy Institute. Second, the measure would eliminate vital cost-sharing payments that help low-income Americans — especially those over 50 — afford deductibles and copayments for medical services. About 58 percent of adults enrolled in ACA marketplace plans get cost-sharing assistance, and 35 percent of those individuals are between 50 and 64 years old.” [AARP, “CBO Analysis of Graham-Cassidy: Bad news for Older Americans,” [9/26/17](#)]

15 MILLION AMERICANS WOULD LOSE HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER GRAHAM-CASSIDY

CBO: 15 Million Americans Would Lose Health Insurance Under Graham-Cassidy In 2018 And 2019. “CBO’s analyses of these prior bills imply that the Graham-Cassidy legislation would reduce insurance coverage by around 15 million in 2018 and 2019.” [Brookings, [9/22/17](#)]

Brookings Institute: 32 Million Would Lose Insurance Under Graham-Cassidy. “The Graham-Cassidy legislation’s adverse effects on insurance coverage are likely to increase after its block grant funding expires at the end of 2026. After that time, the legislation is similar to the “repeal and delay” proposal that the Senate considered in July, which CBO estimated would reduce the number of people with insurance coverage by 32 million people in the long run. Reductions in insurance coverage would likely be somewhat larger under the Graham-Cassidy proposal because of the legislation’s non-expansion related Medicaid provisions, which would further reduce insurance coverage.” [Brookings, [9/22/17](#)]

VUKMIR SIGNALLED SUPPORT FOR CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Paul Ryan Suggested The GOP Would Pursue Cuts To Social Security, Medicare, And Other Programs After The 2017 Tax Overhaul. “House Speaker Paul Ryan and other top Republican leaders, fresh off a tax bill that is estimated to add at least \$1 trillion to the national debt, are already sounding the alarm about an out-of-control deficit problem. Their targets for closing the gap include Social Security, Medicare, and food stamps. ‘We’re going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,’ Ryan said on a talk radio show. One of his top spending appropriators echoed the sentiment.” [Vox, [12/20/17](#)]

U.S. News Headline: “After Tax Overhaul, GOP Sets Sights on Medicare, Social Security.” [U.S. News & World Report, [12/7/17](#)]

Headline: “Leah Vukmir Signals Support For Federal Entitlement Cuts Championed By Paul Ryan” [Cap Times, [12/22/17](#)]

Vukmir: Entitlement Reform Was “Certainly On The Table.” “Vukmir, who is seeking the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, said at a WisPolitics luncheon she thinks entitlement reforms are ‘certainly on the table’ next year. ‘I think that it’s important that as policymakers — and we’ve done this here in Wisconsin and it should be done at the federal level — that we look for every opportunity to expand the economy, grow the economy, but we also have to be responsible stewards and look for programs that are working and programs that aren’t working,’ Vukmir said when asked about entitlement cuts.” [Cap Times, [12/22/17](#)]

Vukmir Signaled Support For Paul Ryan’s Efforts To Reform Social Security, Saying “We Just Can’t Continue.” VUKMIR: “Paul Ryan’s been talking about Social Security reform. We just can’t continue. That money is not gonna be there for your generation, for your generation, for your

kids. So, it's come to the point where people are talking about it [UNINTELLIGIBLE], but it's building. It's gonna require people like you to speak out too. And you have, but I think it's slowly building, and I think it's slowly building to a crescendo, or we are going to doomsday, no doubt." [Manitowoc County Republican Party [10/9/17](#)] (AUDIO) (53:05)

Headline: "GOP Senate Candidates Open Door To Cutting Entitlements Like Health Care, Welfare Programs" [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [12/29/17](#)]

Vukmir Agreed With Paul Ryan That The Government Needed To Reform Entitlement Programs Like Medicaid, Medicare, And Welfare. "Vukmir spokeswoman Jess Ward said the nation needs to tackle its deficits and debt by addressing 'the root of the problem, our spending.' 'Leah agrees with Speaker Ryan, America's debt is a threat to future generations and we must reform these programs,' Ward said in an email. 'In Wisconsin, we are living within our means, having passed one policy reform after the other, and Leah intends to do the same when she gets to Washington.' As the leader of House Republicans, Ryan has argued in recent weeks for following up the tax cut bill — which is projected to increase the federal deficit — with difficult to pass spending restraints on entitlements such as Medicaid, Medicare and welfare programs." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [12/29/17](#)]

Vukmir Said Congress Should Address Entitlement Reform. INTERVIEWER: "What do you think is the next big task then? Do you think the next big task for the current congress is then going with the entitlement route? Going with what Paul Ryan has talked about for years?" VUKMIR: "I think that certainly on the table." [WisPolitics Luncheon, 12/19/17]