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[00:00:19] **Speaker 1** The dust is settling after passage of the federal tax and spending reconciliation bill, which is now law. What stands out for its impact in Wisconsin? We turn to Democratic U.S. Representative Gwen Moore of Milwaukee for her take on what it means for people in her district. And thanks so much for being here.

[00:00:39] **Speaker 2** Always good to be with you, Friedrich.

[00:00:41] **Speaker 1** So what does stand out for its impact in your district and across Wisconsin?

[00:00:48] **Speaker 2** Well, I think that the thing that is most outstanding in this bill is the impact that will have on health care, on the Medicaid cuts, Badger Care, as we call it in Wisconsin, the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare cuts, and when you combine the work requirements to receive Medicaid. And when you, the confluence of all those forces means that they'll probably be something like 276,000 people in Wisconsin who will not receive any kind of health care. And when, just the work requirements themselves will cost 68,000 individuals with no dependence to lose health care. And so the theory of the case is that these are just lazy boys in their mama's basements playing video games, and there'd be no harm and no foul to cut them off. Notwithstanding the fact we believe this is not a real person, this is just a trope, we're saying that in Wisconsin, a person who, say, has two minimum wage jobs working at a fast food restaurant, they will. At minimum wage, working full time, they will make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid. So they'll be thrown, whether they work or not, they won't receive Medicaid. And then there are numbers of people who are truly eligible. They have children, they're already working. Most people who receive Medicaid are already working, but the numbers of the bureaucracy and the paperwork. That they have added into the bill is really something that they have monetized. They have monetize people's mistakes so that if you don't re-up or come in every six months to reconfirm that you're still disabled or that you will find yourself off Medicaid. And then those of you remember, about, Frederica, Wisconsin was one of those states, I believe it was about 11 states. That hadn't taken advantage of the expansion of the Affordable Care Act. And those people will see their premiums go eight, nine times the amount that they're currently paying. So say for example, they were able to get a silver plan and for the purposes of keeping the math simple of $100 a month, they might find themselves with six, seven, $800 a month. Health care payment premiums in order to stay on the program, and thereby, of course, being disenrolled because it's unaffordable. And I think one of the other things that's going to happen is that people who do have employer-provided health care will find their premiums going up. In Wisconsin, the payer mix of people. You know, you have Medicare payments and Medicaid payments and private payers, and less than 30 percent of the patient mix consists of people who are funded through their employers or through government work. And those premiums as well will go up. And what we will find is that people will be much sicker. We also see some real Big hits. In the education area. Our calculation is that about $72 million will be taken from Wisconsin with regard to Title I programs, reading programs, and so on, really big hit in that area. And of course, food supplements. We're thinking that the food share cuts, snap cuts, not only will it cost thousands, hundreds of thousands of people to be cut off food share, but it would also mean that the state itself would have to pay 75 percent of the administrative costs of the food stamp program, the SNAP program, as well as if there are error rates in excess of 6 percent, they'll find themselves having to pay. Uh, for portions of the food stamp program, which today that burden has never been an unfunded mandate that will be placed on not only Wisconsin, but statewide. So it is really a bad bill. One of the things that I didn't mention about healthcare is that our hospital association is very concerned about this because there is a provision in law. Or providers, hospitals, pay a provider fee, which enables them to draw down more federal funds. Well, the federal government is sort of curtailing the ability of states to have hope, to bring down federal dollars so as to reduce the amount of federal dollars available. It's a hot mess in one sentence.

[00:06:29] **Speaker 1** Let me just back up a little bit and talk about health care and Medicaid, and people who fall off Medicaid because of the provisions of this bill and potentially the burdensome of paperwork, what will they do for health care then?

[00:06:47] **Speaker 2** Like I said, people will continue to work, as I indicated before, about 40 percent of people in the country don't have employer-based health care. And I mean, people work in all kinds of industries. They work for fast food, they work for farms, some of them are entrepreneurs, some people or gig jobs. And people work for small, very teeny tiny, small businesses that don't provide employer insurance. They'll be working and they'll have no health insurance. That will increase the amount of uncompensated care that hospitals have to pick up. And it also means that hospitals will have to make decisions about what kind of health care they will or will not provide. We've seen in the past, just recently, in our own community, maternity wards closing, where hospitals will decide we aren't going to do cardiac catheterizations anymore. Community health centers may close or merge. Uh, in order to keep going. And we do know that this bill also defunds any kind of clinic that provides any sort of abortion care or counseling or, uh, about, uh birth control. And so we'll see Planned Parenthood clinics closing and other clinics that may provide that kind of healthcare clothes as well. One of the things is, is that, you know, the president predicts that people won't even pay any attention, they won't ever notice. Some of these provisions don't come into effect until after the 2026 election. But that doesn't mean that hospitals won't have to start planning how to not deliver services now, because, in fact, 276,000. People in Wisconsin will lose care out of the 17 million, minimally, nationally, they will lose health care.

[00:09:03] **Speaker 1** Now, in the state budget just passed, it increased these provider taxes or fees to 6%, which delivers, I understand, 1 billion more federal Medicaid dollars to Wisconsin. So how heads up do you think that was, having served yourself on the Joint Finance Committee here in the State of Wisconsin? How heads up for the legislature and governor to pass the state just ahead? Of the passage of this reconciliation bill to get that kind of extra federal money because of raising this fee on providers.

[00:09:38] **Speaker 2** I'll tell you, I did have communication by phone with leadership in the Democratic caucus. And they were trying to figure out when the one big, beautiful bill was going to pass, and they were literally racing to get the votes and to pass it before we did. And you know, asking me, well, isn't there a 72-hour rule, because I testified before the rules could be, I said, kind of wave. In any reading of the bill for 72 hours, you had better hustle and get that provision passed. Because otherwise, I think that they have reduced those provider tax benefits down to less than 2% so that the state, even though they're willing providers, the state won't be able to access, as you indicated, that billion dollars that Wisconsin really is gonna rely on. To take care of the most needy and I think there are certain mandatory services that Medicaid will have to pay for, like the people in nursing homes. Perhaps we will continue to take care of children and hospital admissions, but everything else will be on the table. Rides to dialysis, home, you know, elders being able to get care in their homes when they're eligible and when they don't need nursing home care. All that will be on a chopping block and the state will have to make some hard decisions.

[00:11:16] **Speaker 1** You touched on education funding, and we know that the Trump administration is apparently making good on its promise to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, and with it, as you suggested, funds that go to high-poverty K-12 schools and special education. How pointedly will that be felt in Milwaukee?

[00:11:39] **Speaker 2** Oh my God, I mean, you know, when you think about their raison d'etre, this waste, fraud and abuse. I mean that, to cut education is like cutting the lifeline of a community. When you think of preparing the future workforce, I can see it causing employers to flee. Of the state. And even the country. I mean, if you can't rely on employees having basic skills to be able to add, subtract, and read and write something that has always been a challenge, given the dearth of monies that are available for reading and special education, and this stuff works. I mean I just had a meeting earlier today where we talked about the Mississippi miracle. Where people had assumed that the kids in Mississippi were just so dumb, they couldn't be taught. But when you wrap resources around them... Voila, they moved up like 30 percentage points in terms of the outcomes for those students. And so we're, you know, we're cutting off our noses despite our faces. This administration, education, these Republicans have demonstrated a real distaste for education. I mean, and every— everything from K through 12 to higher education, where they're conditioning Pell grants in a way that's never been done before, cutting off the ability for parents to borrow money to send their kids to college. It is like a really big mistake that's gonna put not only Milwaukee, but the nation behind.

[00:13:38] **Speaker 1** You've said that their quote is truly no bottom to this bill's cruelty, but what can you and other opponents do about it?

[00:13:49] **Speaker 2** Well, you know, Frederica, I, you know. I did not have a good 4th of July. I was very, very upset. But you know what? It ain't over until it's over. I think now, as we go through this process, we're going to continue to talk about it. We're going continue to try to win the midterm elections, win the hearts and souls and minds of people. I know I've talked to several people who confess to me. That they voted for Donald Trump, but they had no idea that he was going to do the kinds of things that he has done to them. Because indeed, the president's base needs Medicaid almost more than anybody. The president's based needs SNAP, and they certainly need educational opportunities. They're not, you know, and I think that. Many people who sort of thought that he was going to focus on throwing out violent criminals who were immigrants, and they were going to get rid of the waste, fraud, and abuse. And of course, nobody wants waste, fraud, or abuse. But no one knew. That all these cuts were just going to result into a big bonanza, you know, $4.5 trillion for wealthy people who don't really need it while there are debates about whether or not we should serve breakfast and lunch to school children. Nobody knew that that was a trade-off.

[00:15:32] **Speaker 1** Congresswoman Gwen Moore. Thanks very much for joining us.

[00:15:36] **Speaker 2** And thank you, you be well, Rodrigo.

[00:15:44] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you How was that? Is it OK? It was great. It was Great. So we're putting