



## Kathleen Falk's a great choice for DHHS and Wisconsin



11 HOURS AGO • [CAP TIMES EDITORIAL](#)

Both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the country will be well served by the selection of former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk to serve as DHHS regional director for the Midwest.

Falk will serve a region that extends from Minnesota through Ohio. She'll work out of an office in Chicago. But she'll remain highly engaged with her home state of Wisconsin.

That's good. We'll need her.

In the coming year, as the Affordable Care Act is implemented, most states will work closely with the federal government to make the process smooth and efficient.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has been resistant. That could end up costing the state a lot of money. It could

make it harder for those who are most likely to benefit from health care reform to take full advantage of the changes. And it could create confusion and challenges that are harmful to the great majority of Wisconsinites who are already insured.

Having someone who knows Wisconsin well, and who has worked with Democrats and Republicans through the years, will help a great deal.

As will Falk's enthusiasm.

"The task is big: to provide quality, affordable health care to the 30 million Americans without insurance," she says. "The results are even bigger: thanks to the Affordable Care Act, no one can be denied health insurance for a pre-existing condition; young men and women who didn't used to be insured under the parents' policies when they became adults are now covered until age 26; and no cost-sharing required for key preventative measures such as well-women visits, cancer and domestic violence screenings, and immunizations."

Falk won't just focus on the Affordable Care Act. She'll also work to develop and advance DHHS early childhood programs, services for seniors and people with developmental

disabilities, initiatives to provide basic immunizations for children, and responses to new flu viruses.

No one who knows Falk's skills as an administrator will doubt that she can get the job done. She'll serve the whole region with equal zeal; that's her style. But her presence in this key position will be very good for the state of Wisconsin, which she has always served well.

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