

2025-2026 Wisconsin Appleseed Policy Agenda

PROTECT AGAINST HR 1 CUTS

Issue: Federal proposals like HR 1 threaten major reductions in safety net programs—SNAP, Medicaid, housing, elder services, child care.

Political Context: HR 1 is framed as fiscal discipline but disproportionately impacts low-income families, seniors, and communities of color; state budget would face ripple effects.

Recommendations: Publicly oppose cuts; publish impact briefs for Wisconsin; mobilize attorneys to support litigation/oversight; push WI delegation for protective amendments.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CHILD CARE

Issue: High costs and underinvestment threaten affordability and access; workforce instability due to low wages and benefits.

Political Context: Bipartisan recognition of crisis; Governor passed extension of 300 million Legislature blocked major state funding expansions; federal stabilization funds expired in 2023.

Recommendations: Increase state/federal investment; advance wage equity policies; monitor subsidy/licensing oversight.

HOUSING

Issue: Predatory investors displacing residents; seniors at risk of losing homes; high eviction rates.

Political Context: CDA strong locally but limited statewide reach; Act 317 restricts local regulation; Legislature resistant to tenant protections.

Recommendations: Repeal Act 317; support TOPA; expand eviction defense/right-to-counsel; advance senior homeowner protections.

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ELDER CARE & GUARDIANSHIP

Issue: Guardianship delays beyond statutory 90 days; Family Care lacks retroactive coverage; elders face financial harm.

Political Context: Courts/DHS under scrutiny for backlogs; Legislature divided on Medicaid reforms; aging population increases urgency.

Recommendations: Enforce timelines; align Family Care with Medicaid retroactivity; consider litigation for systemic delays.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE

Issue: PFAS contamination, clean water, and climate resiliency disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Political Context: Gov. Evers advancing priorities; Republican Legislature blocking/weakening measures; litigation ongoing but under-resourced.

Recommendations: Support litigation/oversight on PFAS & clean energy; publish equity-focused reports; convene EJ coalitions.

VOTING RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

Issue: Voter ID enshrined in Constitution; redistricting maps reset; absentee voting barriers persist. Misinformation.

Political Context: WI Supreme Court struck down gerrymanders; DOJ investigating intimidation; partisan fights continue.

Recommendations: Recruit attorneys for election protection; support litigation; advocate for automatic/same-day registration; educate voters.
