



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

131 West Wilson Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 267-0214 voice/tty • (608) 267-0368 fax

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To: All Legislators

From: Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

Subject: Lifting the Caps on Family Care – WE ASK FOR YOUR CO-SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT OF LRB 3761/1 and LRB 3698/3

We have been communicating with many of you over the last several months with our concerns about the cap placed on long-term care programs for people with disabilities and the elderly – including Family Care and IRIS - since the biennial budget was enacted last spring.

Today we ask you to show bi-partisan support for lifting the caps on Family Care and IRIS so that people with disabilities and the elderly can get the supports they need.

LRB 3761/1 and LRB 3698/3 lift the caps on these vital programs. Prior to the release of today's bill we have had numerous meetings and conversations with Department of Health Services leadership to develop the various reform proposals which were shared with the legislature on January 9. While there are details to be clarified, we will continue our work with the Department to ensure quality for people with disabilities and the elderly and transparency in the process. **We feel it is not fair to people with disabilities, the elderly and their families, to let waiting lists continue to grow with a cap in place. We are confident we can help the Department find efficiencies in these programs that will ensure sustainability and quality of life for participants while also committing to wise use of public funds.**

We encourage you to co-sponsor LRB 3761/1 and LRB 3698/3 and vote to supporting lifting the caps on Family Care and IRIS.

Survival Coalition Co-Chairs

Lynn Breedlove, Disability Rights Wisconsin; 608-267-0214; lynnb@drwi.org

Maureen Ryan, Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Inc; 608-444-3842; moryan@charter.net

Beth Swedeen, WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities; 608-266-1166;

Beth.Swedeen@wisconsin.gov

The Survival Coalition is comprised of over 40 statewide groups representing people with all disabilities and all ages, their family members, advocates and providers of disability services. For over 20 years Survival has been at the forefront of promoting cost effective, community- based services and supports for people with disabilities.