



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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## **Report Released on Eve of Critical Vote on Long-Term Care: County Data Shows Wait List**

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations has released a hard-hitting report called *Keeping the Community Promise – Lifting the Cap on Long-Term Care in Wisconsin* on the eve of a critical vote in the legislature. The report details for legislators the bi-partisan history of the state's efforts to reform long-term care and keep people living in their homes and out of costly institutions. Former Governor Tommy Thompson, the author of Family Care, is quoted in 1998 as saying, "The greatest hope of our families is for a compassionate system of high-quality choices.... We call it Family Care...Family Care gives families security, peace of mind and hope for the future. It will set the standard for the nation." Gubernatorial candidate Scott Walker is also quoted in the report as saying, "Before I took office, there was literally a waiting list of 3,000 older adults waiting for long-term care in our community. Today not one senior in our community is on a waiting list because we stood up and led the way. We can do it for the state as well."

The legislature's Joint Finance Committee takes a critical vote on long-term care in tomorrow's executive session – deciding whether or not to cap long-term care and freeze decades of investment in community-based supports for older adults, and adults and children with disabilities.

The report provides a county-by-county chart accounting for all older adults and adults and children with disabilities who are both receiving and waiting for long-term care in the community. While there are 44,631 adults and children currently enrolled in some community long-term care program, there are also 11,262 waiting, and there will be more by June 2013. The report highlights that the 2011-2013 biennial budget now proposes to cap enrollment on all major long-term care programs, except nursing homes, even though the average cost of Family Care is \$2,800 per month versus the average nursing home cost of \$4,000. Costs in other institutional settings range from \$16,500 to \$40,920 a month. Under the proposed cap, the waiting list is expected to grow significantly. Funding in the budget is frozen for legacy waivers (COP and CIP) as well as for children's long-term supports.

The report shares example stories from the thousands of older adults, adults and children with disabilities who depend on Wisconsin's commitment to community-based long-term care. Tami Weber of River Falls says, "I don't think I should be put into a nursing home when I am 44 years old. I live with that fear every day."

The report also includes a list of over 70 statewide and regional agencies that have signed on in support of a May 3, 2011 resolution from the Wisconsin Council on Long-Term Care which urges the Governor, the Department of Health Services, and the Legislature to lift the caps on community

long-term care and continue statewide implementation of Family Care, IRIS, PACE and Partnership on its original schedule in the 2011-2013 state budget.

To read the full report and to see the list of more than 70 organizations asking the legislature to lift the cap, click here:

[Keeping the Community Promise – Lifting the Cap on Long-Term Care in Wisconsin.](#)

<http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Keeping-the-Community-Promise.pdf>

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.

**For Further Information Contact Survival Coalition Co-Chairs:**

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