



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Survival Coalition Thanks Assembly Committee for Passing Family Care Bill

Caps will be Lifted but Amendment Raises Concerns for 15 Counties without Family Care/IRIS

Madison, WI – The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations thanks the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care for passing Assembly Bill (AB) 477. AB 477 will lift the caps on enrollment in Wisconsin’s long-term care programs, which includes Family Care, IRIS, PACE, and Family Care Partnership.

“Survival Coalition is pleased that this bill passed the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care today,” said Beth Swedeen, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. “All people with disabilities who have support needs deserve to lead lives with dignity by accessing the supports they need to live in their own homes, go to work, and participate in community life. All Wisconsin residents benefit when a fair and equitable long-term support system exists that provides necessary supports to those who need them regardless of where an individual happens to live.”

The bill was amended to require a vote by the Joint Finance Committee before Family Care is expanded to the 15 counties that currently don’t have it. Survival Coalition members are concerned that the amendment does not include a timeframe in which the committee would have to vote. Advocates and people with disabilities in the 15 counties that cannot currently access long-term care supports through Family Care say contracts to roll out the cost-effective program should be assured of a public hearing and vote within a reasonable timeframe. (See [letter](#) from 7 Northeast counties.) The Senate passed a similar bill – Senate Bill 380 –unanimously without amendments. With few session days left, the amendment by the Assembly Committee puts agreement with the Senate in jeopardy.

“We must not jeopardize lifting the caps and allowing for equity in long-term supports for people across Wisconsin who need them,” said Tom Masseur, Survival Coalition Co-chair.

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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.