



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Voice: 608/266-7826 Fax: 608/267-3906

July 9, 2015

TO: Governor Scott Walker

FROM: The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

RE: Survival Coalition Veto Requests

Dear Governor Walker:

Survival Coalition has worked with and appreciated the diligence and attention Joint Finance Committee members and other legislators have taken to listen to constituents concerned about how changes to a critical and complex long term care system, Medicaid, personal care, and education can directly impact the daily lives of people with disabilities. While the committee has made modifications, substantial concerns remain.

There are several areas of the budget that may result in negative or disproportional impacts to people with disabilities and their families, or are large scale changes in which Survival Coalition is not confident all the necessary technical and other fixes are included in the final budget bill.

### **Medicaid—Long Term Care**

***Survival Coalition recommends that expansion of Family Care/IRIS to the remaining eight counties occur as proposed, but requests that all other changes related to long term care included in the budget (pages 1497-1503) be removed and considered as a separate piece of legislation.***

Other states that have implemented similar proposals have experienced unintended consequences that have resulted in added hardships for older adults, people with disabilities, and their families that Wisconsin can and should avoid.

### **Medicaid—BadgerCare**

***Survival Coalition requests the Governor to veto the 48 Month Cap on Enrollment for BadgerCare Childless Adults (Section 1797, Page 558, Lines 5-7), veto Monthly Premiums for individuals with incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (Section 1797, Page 558, Line 1), veto the requirement for individuals with risky health behaviors to pay higher premiums (Section 1797, Page 558, Lines 2-3), veto Drug Testing Requirements for Accessing BadgerCare (Section 1797, Page 558, Lines 8- 10).***

A significant number of people with disabilities are in BadgerCare, and many are childless adults who would be impacted by these budget provisions. Populations of people with disabilities in BadgerCare

include people with mental illness, people with disabilities who do not meet the functional screen for long-term care programs, people waiting for a disability determinacy or who did not have access to insurance in the past and do not have medical records to document their disability, and people with intermittent disabilities.

## **Medicaid—Personal Care**

***Survival Coalition recommends the Governor veto the Independent Assessment and \$27 million cut to the Personal Care Budget.***

Thousands of older adults and people with disabilities rely on direct care workers to remain independent. Every day in Wisconsin, direct care workers help our families, friends, and neighbors get dressed, bathe, prepare meals and complete other tasks essential for daily living. The proposed state budget creates additional uncertainty for the direct care workforce.

## **Medicaid—Children’s Long Term Care**

***Survival Coalition requests the Governor veto the language under (14) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WAIVER a-c in Section 1535, p. 486, line 12.***

## **Education**

***Survival Coalition requests the Governor veto the Special Needs Scholarship Program (delete from Page 957, line 11 through Page 966, line 23) and veto the Opportunity Schools Partnership Program (delete from Page 973, line 11 through Page 975, line 12, and Page 1054, line 6: through Page 1110, line 5).***

These two policy items were added to the budget bill and are significant changes in education policy that will impact students with disabilities. Changes to education policy can have stark, unintended consequences for students with disabilities who require specialized supports in order to benefit from their education and become productive adults.

People with disabilities, their families, and advocates have raised many questions and concerns about budget provisions that negatively impact people with disabilities. We respectfully request the Governor use his veto authority to remove these items from the budget.

Sincerely,

Survival Co-Chairs:

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