



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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*P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707*

**MEDIA NOTE: This Statement includes a list of local contacts who can speak about the impacts of Medicaid in their community. More than 50 individuals and families from around the state are available for media interviews to share their personal stories.**

## **WITH LESS THAN A WEEK UNTIL A VOTE ON MEDICAID CHANGES, WISCONSIN DISABILITY COMMUNITY MAKES FINAL PLEA**

(MADISON)-- With a vote expected this week on the Senate version of a bill that would fundamentally change Medicaid funding and drastically cut spending over the next decade, Wisconsin people with disabilities and families are speaking out on what that would mean to them.

The Survival Coalition is pleased to hear that U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) isn't ready to vote on the health care reform bill until he gets feedback from his constituents. People across Wisconsin are hoping that Senator Johnson will listen to the grave concerns they have with the 25% cut to Medicaid proposed by Congress and pull those provisions from the bill. More than 1.2 million people use Medicaid funded supports in Wisconsin; more than two-thirds of funding supports people with disabilities and seniors.

"We are being bombarded with concerns from people who use Medicaid supports every day to live, work, and participate in their homes and communities," said Beth Swedeen, Survival Co-Chair. "People with disabilities and families who use Medicaid are scared. They know all these supports are optional in the Medicaid package, so will be the first to be cut or eliminated in the years ahead as Medicaid funding becomes increasingly tight and states have to shoulder more of the costs."

"Many of our federal legislators, who work for us, continue to press forward with their attack on Medicaid and people with disabilities. They have made it clear that they intend to steal the independence of Americans with disabilities before they leave Washington to celebrate the Fourth of July," said Maureen Ryan, Survival Co-Chair.

Survival Coalition surveyed people with disabilities and families earlier this year and received more than 1500 responses statewide sharing how they use Medicaid and how cuts would impact them. "These are the stories that need to be told before this bill passes," said Lisa Pugh, Survival Co-Chair. More than 450 of the respondents offered to publicly share their stories with policymakers, the media, and the general public. Many of their stories are shared below in the Congressional Medicaid Stories booklets put together by Survival. "Senator Johnson has said he wants to hear from constituents before voting on the bill. These are folks who are very eager to share their stories," said Kit Kerschensteiner, Survival Co-Chair.

Attached are local individuals want to be heard from by the media, along with their contact information and a short explanation of how they use Medicaid and what cuts would mean to them and their families.

Below are the Survival Coalition Medicaid Stories by Congressional District and names of local individuals and families who have agreed to be interviewed about the proposed cuts to Medicaid and how it would impact their lives and families.

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#### DISABILITY STORIES

- Survey Results from [Congressional District 1: Speaker Paul Ryan](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 2: Congressman Mark Pocan](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 3: Congressman Ron Kind](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 4: Congresswoman Gwen Moore](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 5: Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 6: Congressman Glenn Grothman](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 7: Congressman Sean Duffy](#).
- Survey Results from [Congressional District 8: Congressman Mike Gallagher](#).

Survival Co-Chairs:

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*Survival Coalition Issue Teams: education, employment, housing, long term care for adults, long term care for children, mental health, transportation, workforce, voting, Medicaid and health care.*

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Investing in People with Disabilities