



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations is disappointed in the Joint Finance Committee's decision to remove Medicaid expansion from the State Budget.

This decision jeopardizes critical funding for services for people with disabilities, older adult, and caregivers rely on.

Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organization members have consistently supported Medicaid expansion; many people with disabilities, older adults, family caregivers, and almost 30% of the homecare workforce are in BadgerCare.

Savings from the proposed Medicaid expansion leverage an estimated \$1.6 billion of new federal funding; the budget as proposed would have reinvested in programs and services critical to people with disabilities and older adults.

Federal funding allows Wisconsin to do much more for far less state taxpayer investment due to the 90% in federal matching funds which has been sustained over time in other states. Disability advocates ask: without federal dollars, how will services for people with disabilities be fully funded as proposed?

Survival hopes the legislature will propose a way to fund key items included in the governor's budget that relied on expansion savings, including:

- Wage increases to address the caregiver workforce crisis.
- Eliminating the waiting list for children with disabilities in the long-term care system.
- Improving access to dental services for people with disabilities.
- Improving access to mental health and substance abuse services including the expansion of crisis services, and rate increases for psychiatrists and other providers of behavioral health services.

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