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For Immediate Release

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Survival Coalition response on CNA bill

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations is concerned about the planned Assembly vote to override Governor Evers' veto of Assembly Bill 76. The bill would decrease training requirements for certified nursing aides (CNAs) from the current requirement of 120 hours to the federal minimum of 75 hours.

Survival Coalition appreciates the desire of policy makers to address the workforce shortage. However, a reduction in training hours could have unintended long-term consequences and reduce the quality of care. Certified Nursing Aides have an important role in providing the most intimate of care to people with disabilities in their homes and other residential settings. They support individuals with complex physical and behavioral health needs. Training is essential for the safety and health of those receiving care, as well as the safety of providers. Studies have demonstrated that increased training reduces job turnover while increasing job satisfaction.

We encourage policymakers to maintain current training requirements, and to consider the upcoming recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving which will provide more comprehensive opportunities for developing and retaining a strong direct care workforce, and improving quality.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 30 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.

Real Lives, Real Work, Real Smart, Wisconsin Investing in People with Disabilities