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Contacts:

Beth Swedeen, beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov; (608) 220-2924;

Patti Becker, beckerp@clanet.org (608) 240-8503

Jason Glozier, jglozier@wcilc.org; (608) 422-0525

Survival Coalition Dismayed at House Passage of Bill Cutting Hundreds of Billions to Medicaid, SNAP, Resulting in Millions Kicked Off Health Insurance

This morning's vote by the U.S. House would make the biggest cut in Medicaid history, **cutting at least \$790 Billion in federal dollars from Medicaid** that will have a significant impact on Wisconsin's disability community.

The Survival Coalition of more than 20 statewide disability organizations continues to have great concerns that people with disabilities—including children with complex disabilities--, family caregivers, older adults who depend on Medicaid, and tens of thousands of Wisconsin small businesses that provide Medicaid-funded goods and services will be harmed by this bill.

"Those voting for the bill have repeatedly said that people with disabilities and other "deserving groups" will not be impacted," said Beth Swedeen, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. "Yet the bill provides no protections that ensure service levels, provider rates, or the overall benefit package remains intact. We know from other states and from the pandemic unwinding in Wisconsin that tens of thousands lost coverage when the added paperwork burden of "work requirements" threw eligible participants, including people with disabilities, off Medicaid."

"Medicaid is the most effective and efficient health care program we have to keep low-income disabled people in their homes and out of nursing homes and other facilities," said Patti Becker, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. "We should be investing in Medicaid, not cutting it. We know that Wisconsin needs more than a billion dollars in additional state funds just to keep Medicaid at its current level, and instead now we may be facing drastic cuts that further endanger people living on the edge of health crisis."

"If policymakers were serious about rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse, they would have included people with disabilities and their support system in drafting legislation," said Jason Glozier, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. "Instead, this bill contains cuts but absolutely no tools to improve oversight or root out fraud. Cuts are not an effective fraud prevention tool."

Survival Coalition is also concerned about heightened reporting requirements and frequency proposed in the bill: submitting proof of work or exemption as frequently as every month. A recent bill proposed in Wisconsin, AB163, that would have increased frequency of reporting and updating eligibility from one time per year to twice a year was voted down in committee after extensive testimony from the disability community about the burdens of red tape already present in Medicaid.

Survival Coalition also is dismayed by proposed cuts of \$290 billion in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and added paperwork burdens being proposed in those programs would impact Wisconsin's disability community. Two-thirds of SNAP participants also use Medicaid programs.