



of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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Survival Coalition Urges Joint Finance Committee to Support Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health Bills

The Joint Finance Committee has an opportunity tomorrow to continue this Legislature's unprecedented support for expanding access to mental health treatment and intervention services. Survival Coalition strongly urges the Committee to take this opportunity to continue the efforts to create a stronger system of care for children and adults experiencing mental health disorders; one which supports earlier intervention and recovery. Please support the following bills:

- Assembly Bill 450, Grants for Crisis Intervention Team Training: This bill will equip law enforcement to respond more appropriately to individuals with mental illnesses enhancing the likelihood for a positive outcome.
- Assembly Bill 452, Child Psychiatry Consultation Program: This bill will support primary care providers who are serving children and youth to better meet the mental health needs of these young people.
- Assembly Bill 454, Primary Care and Psychiatry Shortage Grant Program: This bill will address the extreme shortage of psychiatry services in many areas of Wisconsin.
- Assembly Bill 455: Grants to Establish Peer-Run Respite Centers: This bill will support the expansion of peer-run respite, a cost-effective alternative that can mitigate the need for emergency services.
- Assembly Bill 457, Expansion of Treatment and Alternatives Diversion Program for Individuals Diagnosed with Mental Illness: This bill will provide a less costly and more recovery oriented alternative to incarceration for individuals with mental illnesses who become involved with the criminal justice system but do not pose a public safety risk.

- ASA 1 to Assembly Bill 459, Individual Placement and Support Program: This bill will support expansion of an evidence-based program for employment of people with serious mental illnesses, which in turn will support the recovery of these individuals.
- Assembly Bill 460, Grants for Mental Health Mobile Crisis Teams: This bill will support the development of mobile crisis in rural areas allowing a more effective intervention for someone in a mental health crisis, and often allowing for a response that does not involve incarceration.

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.

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