



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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

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## **Survival Coalition Supports Fiscal Bureau Option Eliminating Changes to Long-Term Care**

(MADISON) The Survival Coalition of more than 30 disability organizations supports the alternatives provided by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau that would preserve Wisconsin's existing high quality long term care system".

"Our Wisconsin long term care programs—Family Care, Family Care Partnership, IRIS—have been developed, evolved, and been successful because of the ongoing partnerships and relationships with stakeholders," said Beth Swedeen, Survival Coalition co-chair. "The Fiscal Bureau specifically talks about the stakeholder-developed current system in its analysis. Program participants, their families, service providers, and advocates have been involved in our current system from conception through design, implementation and constant improvement. Sudden changes without that input could cause long-term harm."

The Fiscal Bureau's paper #356 paper on long-term care outlined many of the points Survival has shared with the Legislature, media, and public since the proposed changes were announced in February.

"The Fiscal Bureau paper talks about the proven cost effectiveness of our current programs in the past decade," said Maureen Ryan, Survival Coalition co-chair. "It also talks about the dangers of dismantling our current system with no contingency plan if proposed changes would fail."

Kit Kerschensteiner, Survival Coalition co-chair, said Survival Coalition members welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislature and Department of Health Services in the coming months to develop a transparent, inclusive, unbiased process for analyzing the current long-term care system and make any recommendations that could result in future program improvement and cost savings.

Survival Coalition also supports the Fiscal Bureau alternative that would take out of the budget the mandatory expansion of Family Care/IRIS statewide. While Survival has supported statewide expansion, Survival believes counties should have the option to enter

voluntarily and take the necessary steps to prepare participants and systems for the transition.

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