



The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition
Keep Our Care at Home

State Long Term Care Programs Continue to Save Wisconsin Taxpayers
Legislative Fiscal Bureau Shows \$23 Million Reduction in this Biennium

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) paper published Monday shows that while general Medicaid costs continue to grow, projected spending on Family Care and IRIS is actually decreasing.

According to LFB, the amount of funding needed to support Family Care and IRIS has declined by \$23 million since the state budget's introduction. These savings are not the result of the major changes proposed to long-term care in the 2015-17 state budget but rather "reflect changes in actual and projected program costs under current law."

"The latest estimates provided by LFB confirm what advocates have been saying for months, Family Care and IRIS are already incredibly cost-effective programs," said Lynn Breedlove of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition. "This is further proof that the proposed overhaul of our long-term care system was a solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist."

Family Care and IRIS have produced, and will continue to produce, significant savings for Wisconsin taxpayers while providing quality care to individuals with disabilities and frail elders:

- Medicaid spending on long-term care decreased from 53% of total spending in SFY 02 to 43% in SFY 11.
- Medicaid spending on institutions, such as nursinghomes, declined from 62% of long-term care spending in SFY 02 to 31% in SFY 12, saving taxpayers approximately \$300 million/year.
- Annually, Family Care saves Wisconsin taxpayers approximately \$400 million/year compared to the Waivers/Fee-for-Service Medicaid program.

"Our current long-term care system is ranked as one of the best in the country by AARP, the SCAN Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund, and it has been proven, time and time again, to be incredibly cost-effective," said Tom Frazier of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition. "We are glad the Joint Finance Committee has committed to removing the changes to the long-term care system from the budget. Any future changes to long-term care should build off of our current, successful system."

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