



# AUTISM SOCIETY

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

## *South Central Wisconsin*

**May 26, 2015**

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### **Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin Supports Preservation of Existing Long-Term Care System**

(MADISON) -- The Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin serves the citizens of ten Wisconsin counties, and includes more than 500 individuals and member families on the autism spectrum, many of whom rely on long-term supports to participate in community life, work, and remain in their homes. Our membership supports preserving the existing Family Care, IRIS and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) system.

We point to Friday's report from the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) as evidence that the current budget proposal lacks details to ensure the health and safety of Wisconsin's disability community and does not lead to any specific cost savings. Further, the changes would dismantle our current program, leaving no "Plan B" if the new system fails.

The proposed changes would cause serious disruption in the lives of 55,000 citizens who rely on these programs to live independently.

The Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin requests that the Joint Finance Committee remove all changes to Family Care, IRIS and Aging and Disability Resource Centers from the state budget.

This means adopting Alternative 5 in LFB Paper #356; Alternatives A4, B4 and C3 in LFB Paper #357 and Alternative 3 in LFB Paper #358 (but approve the additional 3.0 positions for the Board on Aging and Long-term Care).

Our membership participates in the various programs (Family Care, IRIS, and ADRC system). As such, we look forward to working collaboratively to examine and offer input to future changes.

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