



## Autism Society of Wisconsin Supports Preserving the Existing Long-Term Care System

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The Autism Society of Wisconsin serves individuals and families living with autism, across the lifespan, in the state of Wisconsin. Many of our members rely on supports currently provided by the long-term care system to work, participate in the community, and remain in their homes. The proposed changes to the long term care system would mean the elimination of our current system and would disrupt the lives of 55,000 people who rely on these programs to live independently.

As a long-term care stakeholder, the Autism Society of Wisconsin believes that all changes to Family Care, IRIS and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) should be removed from the state budget bill. No new plan for long-term care reform should be proposed until stakeholders have a seat at the table.

A recently released analysis by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) provides no proof that what is being proposed in the budget will save money or make our programs better. LFB also says it's "unclear whether there are significant cost concerns related to the state's current long-term care programs."

It's time for these changes to be removed from the budget entirely.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin calls on the Joint Finance Committee to 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).**

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