



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

Wisconsin LTC Coalition Calls for the Removal of All Changes to Long-term Care from the State Budget Bill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recently released analysis by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) demonstrates that there is no credible evidence to support the arguments being made in favor of overhauling Wisconsin's long-term care system. LFB clearly states that "it is unclear whether there are significant cost concerns related to the state's current long-term care programs."

In addition to providing little evidence in support of the proposed changes, LFB confirms that they will result in the complete elimination of our current system: "If the proposed changes would be adopted, the current long-term care system, including the regional [Managed Care Organizations], would be eliminated." And it is "unclear whether the [Department of Health Services] has a contingency plan" in place if the new, unknown program fails.

"Since the budget's introduction, we've heard a lot of rhetoric about how overhauling our successful system is necessary to save money and make our programs more efficient, but the state's own fiscal agency confirms that the current programs are already saving money and cannot confirm that the Governor's proposal can do any better," said Lynn Breedlove of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition. "It's time for these changes to be removed from the budget entirely."

"While LFB consistently says it is 'unclear' if the proposed changes to our long-term care system would be successful, they provide many examples of how our current system has already controlled long-term care costs," said Breedlove.

LFB's analysis demonstrates that our current long-term care system has already reduced the cost of providing primary and acute care for members and limited the administrative expenses of the regional, Wisconsin-based Managed Care Organizations running our programs.

"There is no reason to believe that the proposed elimination of our current Family Care model, self-directed IRIS program and local Aging and Disability Resource Centers would result in a better or more cost-effective system than what we have now," said Tom Frazier of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition. "Our long-term care system is not broken, so let's not break it."

The Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition sent the attached memo to the Joint Finance Committee asking for the removal of all changes to Family Care, IRIS and Aging and Disability Resource Centers from the state budget.