



Save IRIS
www.saveiris.org

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Wisconsin Citizens Unite in a Final Effort to Save Long-term Care

(MADISON)- Across Wisconsin, people with disabilities and older adults with long-term care needs, their families, and support providers are planning trips to Madison on June 9th in a last-ditch effort to make their case to legislators that changes to long-term care do not belong in the budget.

Young people, older folks, families from rural areas and from cities, Republicans, Democrats and people who have never seen themselves as “political” have joined together with a common goal: the preservation of Wisconsin’s nationally-renowned long-term care programs.

“More people are staying in their homes rather costly nursing homes and they are thriving with the supports that they have in place through our current long-term care programs. The data we have seen supports that these programs are cost effective. Hundreds of people have expressed that they value these programs and want to be involved in decisions about them. We are all still puzzled as to why these changes were proposed at all,” says Sally Flashberger whose son is an IRIS participant.

“One would think that in this political climate it would be difficult for a grassroots movement as big as Save IRIS to stay non-partisan, but it hasn’t been,” says Marion Holmberg, whose daughter is an IRIS participant. Holmberg manages the Save IRIS Facebook page and went on to say, “The people involved in this grassroots movement to save long-term care are respectful and supportive of each other, because we all have the most to lose if these changes to long-term care go through.” Holmberg said IRIS participants and their supporters will bring with them to the Capitol their own personal stories but also [data about how well IRIS participants manage their budgets, resulting in decreasing expenses and savings for the state.](#)

“My son Rob has a disability that significantly affects his life. When it comes to his future, we need to know that we have done everything that we can to put the supports in place to secure his safety and ensure his happiness. These proposed changes to long-term care do neither of those things,” says Stephanie Mauck of Waukesha. “We are going to Madison to look for heroes- legislators who will stand up for our most vulnerable citizens with a promise that if they are here for our family, we will never forget them. I know many families who feel the same way. ”

More information about Long-term Care Advocacy Day and a link to register can be found at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D63MTSH>.

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“Save IRIS” is a non-partisan grassroots movement of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to preserving IRIS- Wisconsin’s only long-term care option in which participants completely self-direct their supports and services.