



Save IRIS
www.saveiris.org

Contact: Julie Burish, Brookfield, 262-784-9627 jaburish29@gmail.com
Jason Endres, Eau Claire, 715-579-2637 jason54701@gmail.com

For Immediate Release:
July 2, 2015

Save IRIS Requests Technical Fixes to Ensure Supports

Members of the Save IRIS Movement are sharing new, important Legislative Fiscal Bureau information about the IRIS program in advance of today's final votes by the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee. Save IRIS hopes to see language identifying technical fixes to the budget committee's plan to roll the IRIS program into managed long-term care for people with disabilities and older adults.

"Our main goal has always been to preserve a separate, free-standing IRIS program," says Marion Holmberg of Waukesha. "Since it is clear that self-direction of long-term supports for people with disabilities and older adults will now be offered through an HMO-type entity, we are asking for clarification on how that will work."

Legislators made strong promises on May 27th when the original budget motion passed indicating that the new IRIS option would be "essentially identical" to the current program.

A [June 30th Fiscal Bureau Memo](#) outlines 4 key areas that would need to be addressed through a technical fix to ensure people continue receiving their IRIS supports.

Specifically the LFB memo outlines that the Legislature's plan differs from how the current IRIS program operates in several ways:

- Does not ensure that anyone who is eligible for Family Care today or in the future will also be eligible for self-direction/IRIS.
- Does not continue access to the ongoing support of an IRIS Consultant (or other care management) to help a person implement their self-direction plan.
- Does not calculate an Individual Budget based on an objective measure of a person's functioning.
- Does not require that all eligible individuals be provided information on the self-direction option.

"We trust in the Legislature's intent to keep IRIS supports the same for the 11,000 participants statewide and their families, who depend on them and who are very concerned," says Julie Burish. "It is our hope that today's 999 clean-up motion or some future bill can provide this assurance through these important technical fixes."

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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.