



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

**Key Legislative Committee Unveils Long-term Care Plan that Contradicts Public Input:
Advocates and Families Shocked**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Lynn Breedlove 608-577-0468; Tom Frazier 608-770-0605

Despite the urging from thousands of stakeholders to remove all changes to long-term care from the state budget bill, the Joint Finance Committee unveiled a plan to create a new, untested system for the 55,000 people who rely on our long-term care system.

The secret plan approved by the Committee creates new, unknown entities called Integrated Health Agencies (IHAs) that will replace our Wisconsin-based Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and does not maintain IRIS as a separate, non-managed care program.

“Let’s be clear, this new plan is just the Governor’s proposal in sheep’s clothing,” said Lynn Breedlove of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition. “Thousands of people expressed opposition to dismantling the current system, but the Legislature is doing it anyway. This violates the trust between the Legislature and the public.”

“Long-term care stakeholders came to Madison today hoping the Committee would finally put an end to the uncertainty they’ve been feeling these last few months. Instead they were told that many of the concerning elements from the Governor’s plan are still on the table and will be submitted to the federal government in less than a year,” said Breedlove.

Not only is this proposed overhaul of our long-term care system unwanted by the thousands of long-term care stakeholders, it is also unclear if it is even necessary.

In its analysis of the proposed changes, the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) found that it is “unclear whether there are significant cost concerns related to the state’s current long-term care programs.” LFB’s analysis also failed to substantiate the claims that this new plan will provide any significant cost savings or provide care more efficiently than our current programs.

“There is overwhelming evidence that our current long-term care system is controlling long-term care costs and meeting its goals. There is absolutely no reason to overhaul our current system,” said Tom Frazier of the Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition.

The Wisconsin Long-term Care Coalition calls on the Legislature to remove all changes to long-term care from the state budget bill. No new plan should be created until stakeholders are given a seat at the table and a chance to provide meaningful input.

“We call on the full Legislature to overturn these drastic changes that will destroy our excellent long-term care system,” said Frazier.

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