



## Ask Your 2016 State Assembly and Senate Candidates If They Will Stand up for Wisconsin's Long Term Care System!

### Family Care and IRIS

Family Care and IRIS are Wisconsin's long-term care programs for eligible persons with disabilities and older adults. The programs are currently available in 65 counties, helping more than 56,000 people live in their communities rather than in costly institutions. Major proposed changes included in the 2015-17 state budget would have turned these programs over to private, for-profit insurance companies. Analysis done by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau showed that the proposed changes would not save significant taxpayer dollars or improve quality of care for recipients. In June 2016, the state withdrew the proposed changes and later announced plans to expand the current Family Care/IRIS programs statewide by 2018. Program participants, advocates, and families support keeping our current nationally-recognized system in place and statewide expansion of the existing programs.

#### Questions:

1. Will you oppose disrupting the lives of 56,000 people to make changes that do not benefit the taxpayers or program participants?
2. Do you agree that any potential reforms should build off of what is already working in our current system instead of creating an entirely new system?

### Managed Care Organizations

Currently, Wisconsin-based Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) contract with the state to deliver Family Care, Family Care Partnership and PACE services to Wisconsinites. The state caps administrative costs and limits the excess revenue MCOs can incur. As part of the Family Care changes debated in the 2015-17 state budget, management of the Family Care program would have likely been transferred to large, national insurance companies. These insurance companies would not have been subject to caps on administrative costs and allowed profits higher than what is permitted in our current system.

#### Questions:

1. Will you work to ensure that Wisconsin-based MCOs, which employ thousands of Wisconsin workers, continue to operate the Family Care program?
2. Will you support continuing the caps on administrative costs and excess revenue that currently exist?
3. Will you support keeping Family Care service providers and resources local?

### IRIS

People who are currently eligible for long term care services can choose to self-direct their services through the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) program. IRIS gives participants budget and employer authority to make decisions about the services and supports that help them live, work and participate in their communities. In IRIS, participants choose the services that are right for them and hire their own workers with assistance from a fiscal agent and IRIS consultant. Proposed changes to the IRIS program would have reduced a person's choices and given insurance companies the final say over decisions that a person now makes about their IRIS services and supports.

#### Questions:

1. Do you support the option for people to fully self-direct their long-term care supports as they do today in the IRIS program?
2. Will you oppose any reductions in employer or budget authority for current and future IRIS participants?

### ***Family Care Partnership Program***

The Family Care Partnership Program (Partnership) provides both medical and long-term care services to elderly individuals and persons with disabilities. The goal of Partnership is to improve health care quality and service delivery while containing costs and reducing inefficiencies. Partnership provides comprehensive services in the person's home or community-based settings and allows them to choose a primary care doctor. Partnership, which serves 3,000 people, is currently only available in 14 counties.

Question:

1. Will you support the expansion of Partnership beyond the 14 counties as a solution to improving integration of health and long-term care?

### ***Aging and Disability Resource Centers***

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) services are available in all 72 Wisconsin counties (some tribes also offer services through a Tribal Aging & Disability Resource Specialist). ADRCs provide the general public a single source for information and assistance on issues affecting older people and people with disabilities, regardless of their income. The ADRCs are valuable, one-stop shops for public benefits, informational and educational materials needed by older adults, persons with disabilities, and families and caregivers, and unbiased options counseling for persons making decisions about long term care. ADRCs provide functional screening to determine eligibility for publicly funded long-term care programs and provide enrollment assistance to those who are interested and eligible.

Questions:

1. Will you support local ADRCs to continue offering the full array of information and assistance services to help customers maintain their independence and maximize their own resources, delaying their need for publicly-funded long term care?
2. Will you support keeping a one-stop resource for information and assistance for the aging and disability communities available for in-person services in every county?

### ***Direct Care Workforce Crisis***

Wisconsin is currently experiencing a direct care workforce crisis that is impacting consumers' ability to receive needed services. Direct care supports are integral to ensuring that people with disabilities and older adults can lead safe and healthy lives in the community. This is not only where people prefer to live, it is also the most cost-effective setting.

Question:

1. What steps will you take to address the issues with direct care worker recruitment and retention that are being driven by inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates?

### ***Stakeholder Involvement***

Wisconsin has a nationally-recognized long term care system that other states have long tried to emulate. Sixty-thousand people rely on Wisconsin's long term care programs to live successfully in their communities. To continue receiving high marks in consumer satisfaction and national recognition, Wisconsin must create a sense of shared ownership and responsibility by empowering program stakeholders and participants. Recent proposed changes would have overhauled Wisconsin's long term care system without guarantee of meaningful stakeholder input and collaboration.

Questions:

1. Will you support including stakeholders in making decisions about any changes to our Wisconsin long-term care system?
2. Will you support having stakeholder input at every stage of any long term care system changes?
3. Will you oppose any changes to our long term care program made without input from stakeholders or program participants?