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### **Disability Rights Wisconsin Supports Governor Walker's Focus on Employment, Education, High-Quality Medicaid, Healthcare Access, and Trauma Informed Care**

Madison, WI- Governor Walker's State of the State address highlighted several areas affecting the lives of people with disabilities including employment, education, trauma informed practices and Medicaid. Disability Rights Wisconsin looks forward to working collaboratively with the Governor to address these priority issues for the disability community.

"People with disabilities want to work and Governor Walker has continued to support initiatives like Project Search," says Dan Idzikowski, Executive Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin, "Given his commitment to workforce, Wisconsin has an opportunity to look for new ways to increase the number of people with disabilities working in the community."

DRW is also encouraged by the Governor's commitment to a significant increase in public education funding which will help schools districts provide quality education to students with disabilities alongside their regular education peers, and prepare them to be college and career ready.

DRW applauds Tonette Walker's initiative related to advancing the principles of trauma informed care practices across the state. The intersection of disability and trauma cannot be overstated. Idzikowski said children and adults who are experiencing trauma in their daily lives need systems that better understand how to meet their needs.

Governor Walker highlighted Wisconsin's current high quality Medicaid programs that are instrumental in the lives of people with disabilities. The disability community relies on programs like Children's Long Term Care, Family Care, IRIS, Comprehensive Community Services, and other Medicaid programs on a daily basis. "DRW was encouraged by the Governor recognition that our current Medicaid system is not only working but is a model for others states." said Idzikowski. "As new ideas around Medicaid Block grants emerge, DRW wants to be at the table with other stakeholders to discuss how any new ideas may affect the lives of people with disabilities."

As noted by the Governor, Wisconsin has achieved some of the highest insured rates in the country. Wisconsin's leadership in providing access to insurance for those with pre-existing conditions and to high-quality care, is vital to people with disabilities and highlights how much is at stake in the coming months as policymakers consider repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. DRW is committed to working with policymakers to protect and sustain access to quality healthcare for Wisconsinites with disabilities.

*Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy agency for the State of Wisconsin.*

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