



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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### WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Supports Governor's Statements on Jobs, Education, and Keeping High-Quality Medicaid Supports

**Madison, WI** – Governor Walker's focus on finding jobs for every Wisconsin resident, increasing education funding, and continued investments in Medicaid in his State of the State touched issues of top importance to Wisconsin's disability community, according to the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"Nearly 4 in 5 people with disabilities in Wisconsin report they want to work or work more, yet employment rates continue to lag far beyond the general population," said Beth Swedeen, executive director.

"Expanding the success of efforts like Project Search that prepare young adults with developmental disabilities for good-paying jobs is a high priority in the disability community, as is quality public schools that prepare students with disabilities for employment and adulthood."

Swedeen said Wisconsin's developmental disabilities community also relies on high-quality supports through Medicaid-funded long-term care programs. She said Wisconsin's home-grown Family Care and IRIS long-term care programs, funded by Medicaid, are considered a national model for providing supports that allow people with significant disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities.

"Continued investment in high-quality Medicaid programs is critical to ensuring that people with significant disabilities can remain safe and healthy with supports that help them stay in their homes and ultimately avoid costly nursing home and other institutional care."

Swedeen said the Board is receiving many questions about possible federal changes to Medicaid, including block granting Medicaid funds to states. She said stakeholders in Wisconsin who helped develop the state's current innovative model want to be part of any conversations that would significantly change Medicaid funding and programs.

The Board for People with Developmental Disabilities is federally mandated to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster welcoming and inclusive communities, and improve the disability service system. The Board's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life.

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