



# The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition

## Keep Our Care at Home

January 10, 2017

Contacts: Lynn Breedlove (608-577-0468)

Tom Frazier (608-770-0605)

### **State of the State Highlights Medicaid Coverage**

Wisconsin long-term care stakeholders were pleased to hear Governor Walker discuss Wisconsin's strong Medicaid program during today's State of the State address. We want to work with Governor Walker and legislators to continue to strengthen Wisconsin's Medicaid system and build on the decades-long progress we have made in improving our supports for people with disabilities and older adults. Discussions taking place in Washington, D.C. are of significant concern to the 1.2 million Wisconsinites who are covered by the program.

"We hope to work with lawmakers to get answers to the many questions we have about what Medicaid block grants would mean for Wisconsin," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove. "We are hearing from older adults and people with disabilities across the state who are worried that potential Medicaid block grants will result in changes to the programs they rely on to lead independent lives."

Wisconsin's Medicaid program includes Family Care/IRIS, the Children's Long Term Support Waiver, the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP), BadgerCare, SeniorCare, Community Recovery Services and many other programs that make it possible for people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community instead of costly institutions.

Past proposals to block grant Medicaid, which would limit federal funding for the program, would have resulted in cuts of 25%-35%. Stakeholders are concerned that Wisconsin won't be able to make up for funding cuts of that size and will need to make tough choices to reduce Medicaid spending like cutting provider rates or limiting the number of people who qualify for services.

"With statewide expansion of Family Care/IRIS, Wisconsin is set to become one of the first states in the nation to end waiting lists for adult long-term care, but many people are worried that a Congressional action to create Medicaid block grants would make it difficult for Wisconsin to keep this commitment," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier.

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition encourages state and federal lawmakers to get answers to the questions stakeholders, including people with disabilities and older adults, are asking before approving major changes to Medicaid's funding structure.

The full list of the questions we are hearing about Medicaid block grants can be found on the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition's website: [www.wilongtermcarecoalition.org](http://www.wilongtermcarecoalition.org).

###