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Rep. Jacque applauds announcement of MAPP program improvements for individuals with disabilities

GREEN BAY, Wis. – State Rep. André Jacque (R-De Pere) praised yesterday’s announcement by Gov. Scott Walker that needed reforms of Wisconsin’s Medical Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) will be included in his 2017-’19 Biennial Budget proposal, expected to be unveiled in early February. Rep. Jacque introduced similar changes last legislative session as Assembly Bill 414, and has been working collaboratively with advocates for the disabled and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services over the past several months to develop statutory and programmatic changes for the current legislative session. The reforms, which were announced by the Governor during a stop in Green Bay to discuss his *Wisconsin Works for Everyone* initiative, are expected to make the program more effective and sustainable, according to Jacque.

“These significant and essential changes will remove barriers to workforce participation for the disabled and ensure that the MAPP program becomes an even more valuable and viable tool in our efforts to improve employment outcomes,” Jacque said, noting that he was inspired to begin working on the proposed changes after hearing about present work disincentives within MAPP from Sandy Popp of Options for Independent Living at a DHS regional listening session a few years ago.

Specifically, the MAPP reforms:

- Fix the premium “cliff” currently preventing users from being able to take on additional or higher paying work opportunities
- Remove the penalties presently placed on MAPP program participants for savings in retirement or independence accounts
- Expand eligibility to allow more disabled individuals to participate in the program and improve the safety net for medically needy individuals
- Strengthen MAPP work requirements and increase program sustainability through mandatory minimum premiums

These components are similar to those present in 2015 AB 414, authored by Rep. Jacque, which enjoyed very broad bi-partisan support of 50 legislative co-sponsors.

“I am extremely pleased by the Governor’s commitment to making these critical, common sense changes which support long term employment, make economic sense, and bolster our workforce by providing access to the healthcare individuals with disabilities need in order to work,” concluded Rep. Jacque.

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