



**For Immediate Release**

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**Family Voices Applauds Governor's Announcement to Eliminate Wait Lists for Children with Long-Term Support Needs!**

Madison, WI (Feb. 7, 2017) – Family Voices of Wisconsin, a network of families who have children and youth with disabilities or special health care needs, applauds today's announcement to end county wait lists for critical children's long-term supports.

Governor Walker announced he will eliminate the long-term support wait list for children with developmental and physical disabilities or severe emotional disturbances and provide additional state resources for children and family aids and other programs in his next state budget.

Right now over 2600 children with significant disabilities and their families are waiting for essential supports and services such as specialized equipment, home modifications or needed medical supplies.

The wait time for children ranges from 1 to 8 years depending on where a family lives. This can have a devastating impact on families and children. Currently 43% of children eligible for long-term supports are waiting for supports and services while wait lists for adults with similar needs will be eliminated by 2018.

The Governor's budget is a critical investment in Wisconsin families who care for their children with significant developmental, physical or emotional disabilities. Long-term support programs allow families to continue to work, be a part of their communities and support their children's health and well-being.

Family Voices thanks Governor Walker for his commitment to eliminating wait list for Wisconsin families who have children with disabilities!

*Family Voices of Wisconsin is a statewide network of families who have children and youth with special health care needs or disabilities and those who work on their behalf. We promote a "family voice" in public policy, system change and professional education.*