



Save IRIS  
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### **Save IRIS Responds to JFC Announcement about Long-term Care**

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The members of the grassroots movement Save IRIS were encouraged by the announcement yesterday from Senator Darling, Senator Vukmir, Representative Nygren, and Representative Knudsen that they will ask the Joint Finance Committee to remove proposed changes to long-term care from the budget and by their requirement to have “public and stakeholder input before any changes are made.”

Save IRIS member, Julie Burish of Brookfield, whose daughter uses IRIS said, “We are pleased to be welcomed to be an active member of the decision making process and look forward to being an important part of the team to ensure that high quality long-term care is sustainable.”

Many questions remain regarding the future of self-direction in Wisconsin. Save IRIS families and participants clearly have asked that IRIS be preserved as a unique and separate program and it is unclear from the announcement whether JFC has respected this request.

Save IRIS asks the Joint Finance Committee:

**Does this plan leave the option to preserve IRIS as a unique and separate program or does the JFC anticipate that all long-term care programs will be under a managed care system?**

“IRIS has proven to be cost-effective and it helps me to remain healthy and in my own home,” says Jason Endres of Eau Claire.

“The success of the IRIS program demonstrates that people can be trusted stewards of public dollars, when purchasing goods and services in a free market system,” says Marion Holmberg of Waukesha whose daughter is an IRIS participant.

Having a separate self-directed support program provides a clear option for those needing long-term care. Let's do what we can to preserve this gem in Wisconsin's system and continue to build it for future sustainability.

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*“Save IRIS” is a non-partisan grassroots movement of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to preserving IRIS- Wisconsin’s only long-term care option in which participants completely self-direct their supports and services.*