



# The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition

## Keep Our Care at Home

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Contacts: Lynn Breedlove  
[lynnbreedlove.wi@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbreedlove.wi@gmail.com)  
608-577-0468

Tom Frazier  
[tomfrazier21@gmail.com](mailto:tomfrazier21@gmail.com)  
608-770-0605

### ***DHS Projects No Long Term Care Cost Savings from Family Care/IRIS 2.0***

**MADISON, WISCONSIN** – The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition sent a memo to members of the Joint Finance Committee Wednesday that sheds light on a recent Family Care and IRIS 2.0 financial analysis done by the Department of Health Services (DHS) that reveals there will be no long-term care cost savings due to the proposed redesign.

“It is difficult to justify the substantial disruption Family Care and IRIS 2.0 will create for the 60,000 people who use long-term care when the proposed changes won’t have any impact on long-term care costs,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove.

Family Care and IRIS 2.0 was introduced as a way to make long-term care more cost-effective and sustainable, but financial projections show that the proposed model will primarily affect medical costs for 20% of current program participants. In addition, the proposal has the potential to double profits when compared to the current Family Care program. This could increase costs by \$200 million over six years and none of these extra profits would be required to stay in Wisconsin.

“Over the last 15 months stakeholders have been told these changes are needed to make long-term care sustainable for future generations, but now we find out that Family Care and IRIS 2.0 will only impact health care costs, and only for a fraction of current program participants,” said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier. “We believe there are other ways to achieve health care savings for one subgroup without overhauling our entire long term care system for everybody.”

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition believes that similar medical cost savings could be achieved by expanding the current long-term care programs statewide and promoting the current fully integrated Partnership program.

“If we are going to approve a massive overhaul like the one that is being proposed, we need to make sure the disruption is worth the risk to current participants, and that burden of proof has not been met yet,” said Breedlove.

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