



May 26, 2017

Contact: Liz Hecht Liz@fvofwi.org
608.239.1364

Barbara Katz, barb@fvofwi.org
608.220.9598

Family Voices Thanks Joint Finance Committee for Supporting Elimination of Wait Lists for Children with Long-Term Support Needs!

Family Voices of Wisconsin, a network of families who have children and youth with disabilities and/or special health care needs, applauds the Joint Finance Committee's approval to end wait lists for children's long-term supports as part of the 2017-2019 state budget.

Right now over **2600** children who are eligible for the CLTS program are on county waitlists. The program allows families to receive funding for essential supports and services. 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.

By approving this budget proposal, the Joint Finance Committee is supporting an important investment in Wisconsin families who care for their children with significant developmental, physical or emotional disabilities. Children will no longer wait for essential interventions to maximize their development.

"Families tell us that being placed on a 2 to 8 year waiting list for the CLTS program (depending on their county of residence) means missed opportunities for their children and negative impacts on their whole family, including increased stress and financial uncertainty," said Liz Hecht, Family Voices Co-Director.

Family Voices of Wisconsin thanks Governor Walker and members of the Joint Finance Committee for their commitment to eliminating wait list for Wisconsin families who have children with disabilities. This move makes us unique among states in our nation.

Family Voices promotes a "family voice" in public policy, system change and professional education.