



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Rep. Hintz Calls on Gov. Walker to Finally Comply with Long Term Care Open Records Request**

**MADISON**— Following a judge's ruling that Governor Scott Walker release an open records request he had been withholding over year relating to UW System provisions of the budget, the Governor said "*I think, for us, it's very clear what the courts have said. That was debatable before, and so this made it clear. Anything you write down, even if it's just notes, in terms of discussion, is all available for open records.*"

Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) is now calling on the Governor to comply with open records requests on the unnecessary overhaul of Wisconsin's long term care system. These requests, like those relating to the Wisconsin Idea, have been held back by the Governor's office since they were introduced in the budget over a year ago.

"For over a year, people across the state have wondered why this plan to overhaul our long term care system was rammed through," said Rep. Hintz. "This is a program that helps many of Wisconsin's frail elderly and those with disabilities get out of bed in the morning, and Governor Walker has refused to answer their questions on why this proposal was necessary."

Members of the public submitted open records requests in an attempt to figure out the rationale behind the long term care changes, but Governor Walker's administration has continued to refuse to fill the requests, claiming the records were part of internal discussions and exempt from open records laws. This supposed exemption exists nowhere in state law and has now been rebuked by the courts.

"Governor Walker made clear in his statement to the press that he knows what the law means, so now it's time to start complying." Rep. Hintz said. "Those served by the long term care system, more than anyone, finally deserve some honesty. It's time to disclose who was really behind the 'deliberative process' that led to these unnecessary changes."

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