



Save IRIS
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For Immediate Release:
July 9, 2015

Save IRIS Asks Governor Walker for his Help

Last night the Wisconsin Legislature approved the final budget bill, without making the technical fixes Save IRIS requested. The budget is now back in Governor Walker's hands. Since Governor Walker released his February budget proposal that included significant changes to Wisconsin's long-term care system, evidence has emerged that puts into question the effectiveness of for-profit insurance companies managing long-term care. Although the Joint Finance Committee has addressed some of the concerns of stakeholders and advocates, many substantive questions remain.

Save IRIS is concerned that the current budget bill does not preserve self-direction as we know it in Wisconsin. "I am afraid that self-direction is not clearly defined," says Jason Endres, an IRIS participant from Eau Claire. "I worry that there are not enough safe guards in place to protect my ability to manage my own support plan as I do now."

Save IRIS believes that the best way to preserve self-direction in Wisconsin is to preserve IRIS as a separate Medicaid waiver program. During the last few months, hundreds of members of Save IRIS have presented data as well as personal stories demonstrating that IRIS is a cost-effective and valued program.

People with disabilities and their families ask the Governor of our great State of Wisconsin to use his veto power to maintain IRIS as a separate Medicaid waiver program.

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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.