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## DSPN Commends Health Services Agency Budget Request Commitment to Investing in the long-Term Care Workforce

The Disability Services Provider Network (DSPN) was made aware that a continuation of the Family Care “Direct Care Workforce Funding Initiative” is included in the Governor Walker administration’s Department of Health Services agency budget request.

DSPN CEO Lincoln Burr stated, “Long-term care programs serving persons with disabilities have been facing a severe caregiver shortage crisis. In 2017 the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor Walker recognized this crisis and created an initiative targeting funding increases to caregivers in Family Care. We understand that the Department of Health Services (DHS) recent agency budget request provides a continuation of this much needed funding – and for that we are very grateful.”

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About the Disability Service Provider Network.

**Every person deserves a place in their community and the opportunity to live a full, meaningful life.** With that common belief in mind, Rehabilitation for Wisconsin (RFW) and Residential Services Association of Wisconsin (RSA) have bound together in pursuit of that philosophy. For more than 100 combined years, the two organizations have served providers who have supported people with differing abilities throughout Wisconsin. We’ve helped our membership fight for options, push for the highest standards of care, and promote that best practices in our industry. We still speak out for dignity, independence, and choice; but now, we will do so with the unified voice for Wisconsin’s service providers, under the new flag of the Disability Service Provider Network (DSPN). Now our voice is more powerful than ever before.

Stronger together DSPN has become the state’s leading trade association for organizations that provide support to people with disabilities. The combined strength of both united organizations gives our members an unprecedented opportunity to advocate for innovation and improve the way our state supports people with disabilities. We’re helping our members make a difference with grassroots advocacy and statewide conferences. DSPN will continue to support members with professional networks, news and legislative briefs, training opportunities, free online resources, and an unswerving commitment to creating a Wisconsin where every citizen can participate in community life. Wisconsin; like RFW and RSA, is stronger when we’re all together.