FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Thank you Governor Walker for Supporting Funding for Long-Term Caregivers!

“Our members who care for persons with disabilities in Family Care wish to thank Governor Walker for his support of a provision in the state budget to provide additional funding for caregiver wages in the Family Care program,” stated Lincoln Burr, Executive Director of Rehabilitation for Wisconsin and the Residential Services Association of Wisconsin. “Providers in Family Care are facing a workforce crisis. It should be noted that approximately 99 percent of Wisconsin residents with cognitive and behavioral disabilities rely on Wisconsin’s Family Care or legacy waiver programs to pay for their care. According to the national Professional Healthcare Institute (PHI) approximately 49 percent of the people providing that care in Wisconsin rely on means-tested public assistance. We believe that provider reimbursement in Family Care plays a significant role in this statistic and has hobbled providers from curtailing the caregiver shortage crisis. We are delighted that Governor Walker and the legislature have recognized the need to address this issue and have provided resources to support our direct care workforce.”

Governor Walker signed the state budget into law, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59, which includes nearly $60 million (State & Fed) additional funding during the 2017-19 biennium to increase the direct care portion of the Family Care managed care organizations capitation rate with the intent to assist long-term care providers with direct caregiver shortages.

The Residential Services Association of Wisconsin and Rehabilitation for Wisconsin look forward to working with Governor Walker and the Department of Health Services to ensure the additional budget funding provided is allocated toward where it is intended.

The Associations are a not-for-profit membership and service organizations comprised of operators of all community living arrangements and interested agencies serving persons with disabilities throughout Wisconsin.

- The Long-Term Care Workforce Crisis: A 2016 Report