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Bill to Provide Free training for Guardians Headed to Governor's Desk

Today's State Assembly passage of AB 100/SB 92, bi-partisan guardian training legislation, moves Wisconsin one-step closer to providing free training for prospective family and volunteer guardians *before* they are appointed.

"This legislation will better prepare guardians for the complexities of the guardianship system and their associated responsibilities," said Robert Kellerman, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR), "It is good for guardians who, going forward, will now be more fully aware of their role and responsibilities and it will improve the well-being of people under guardianship."

Required training topics in the legislation include alternatives to guardianship; legal roles, responsibilities, and requirements of guardians; rights of wards; and where to go for resources and support. The bill calls for free, plain language, web-based online training (with printed versions available upon request) to be developed for potential and current family and volunteer guardians, as well as other health/long term care, social service, and education staff and family members who may wish to learn more about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship.

Training people before they are appointed as a guardian will help ensure all decision-making options have been explored, those agreeing to be appointed as a guardian will do so after making a better-informed decision, and appointed guardians will have improved understanding of how to carry out their roles and responsibilities while respecting their ward's rights and the limitations of their own power.

GWAAR extends its thanks to Sen. Jacque (R-De Pere) and Rep. Zimmerman (R-River Falls) for their leadership on this bill and encourages Governor Evers to sign this important bi-partisan legislation into law.

About GWAAR

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. is a nonprofit agency committed to supporting the successful delivery of aging programs and services in 70 counties and 11 tribes in Wisconsin. We provide lead aging agencies in our service area with advocacy support, training, and technical assistance to ensure the availability and quality of programs and services to meet the changing needs of older people in Wisconsin.

Working together to promote, protect, and enhance
the well-being of older people in Wisconsin.

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