



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 16, 2021**

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## Two Jobs, No Breaks: How family caregiving is impacting participation in Wisconsin's workforce.

Wisconsin advocates for people with disabilities, older adults and their families are setting off alarms about how the increasing burden on the state's family caregivers is impacting employers and the economy. Three organizations, including the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network, and the Wisconsin Family Caregiver Alliance are releasing the second of five short videos focused on the daily challenges faced by Wisconsin's family caregivers as part of November Family Caregiver Month.

This week's video exposes how caregiving impacts the family caregiver's participation in Wisconsin's workforce.

**Watch this four minute [video on how family caregiving impacts employment](#):**

### **Two Jobs, No Breaks: Employed and Caregiving**

"Wisconsin relies on family caregivers. 80% of care is provided by families," said Janet Zander, public policy coordinator for the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network. "The labor, hours, and dollars invested by family caregivers are the difference between many older adults and people with disabilities being able to stay in their homes or being forced into expensive Medicaid-funded institutional settings."

"Wisconsin has 1.2 million family caregivers, and almost two-thirds--792,000 people--also work a part or full-time job while caregiving," said Lisa Schneider, Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance Co-Chair. "Another 408,000 family caregivers are not in the workforce; 52% reported giving up working to meet family caregiving needs. Family caregiver issues are Wisconsin workforce issues."

"It is time our policymakers recognize the value of family caregivers," says Lisa Pugh, Co-Chair of the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations. "When work doesn't work for family caregivers; Wisconsin employers, state and local economies, and Wisconsin families all lose."

States that value the contributions of caregivers provide targeted caregiver supports and are seeing savings of \$20 million annually in taxpayer dollars, mostly due to delayed nursing home placement. States also save lost revenue when caregivers are able to stay in the workforce.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3202705/>  
[http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/default/files/Washington %20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging.pdf](http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/default/files/Washington%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging.pdf)

## Meet Wisconsin's Family Caregivers

- **Watch:** Two Jobs, No Breaks: Employed and Caregiving (<https://youtu.be/I5g2RiOBgxs>)
- **Watch:** Family Caregiver Press Event (<https://youtu.be/YrC1mRLj3Mb>)
- **Watch:** trailer video: See Us: Wisconsin's Invisible Family Caregivers ([https://youtu.be/\\_3-plLaEqaU](https://youtu.be/_3-plLaEqaU))
- Read the [Governor's Proclamation for Caregiver Month](#).
- Family Caregiver Month events (<https://wisconsincaregiver.org/wfacsa-in-the-news>)
- Policy solutions to support family caregivers (<https://arcwi.org/2021/09/23/support-for-family-caregivers-is-critical/>)

## Quick facts about Employed Family Caregivers

- Nearly two thirds of family caregivers are employed. 60 percent work full time.
- 40 percent of family caregivers are employed part-time.
- Many need employment that fits around their caregiving schedule.
- 71% of caregivers reported cutting back hours.
- 42% turned down a promotion.
- Many family caregivers have jobs with no paid leave or unpaid leave options.
- 52% reported giving up working.
- Nationally, family caregivers lose \$522 billion in income each year