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December 5, 2018

To: Governor Walker

From: Save IRIS

Subject: Please Veto SB 886/AB1072

All around Wisconsin, people with disabilities, their families, and their care providers woke up to uncertainty. SB 886/AB 1072 passed along party lines leaving more questions than answers for Wisconsin residents who use the IRIS program and other Medicaid waivers to meet their long-term care needs. We are worried that funding and staff time at the Department of Health Services will go toward bureaucratic paperwork rather than improving services that help people maintain their health, safety, and connections in the community.

Marion Holmberg of Waukesha said, "As a parent of two young adults using the IRIS program, I worry that there are unintended consequences to this legislation because stakeholders were not involved in this bill at all. How can I be certain that my family members will still have the supports that they need when no one asked me what they needed before voting for this legislation?"

Jason Endres of Eau Claire uses the IRIS program. He shared, "The legislature already has broad ability to direct the actions of the Department of Health Services. This new bill only complicates things. It strikes me as odd that a bill that moved so fast could potentially slow down an already complex system."

Under your leadership, the waiting lists for the long-term care programs ended. Please stand up and veto SB 886/AB 1072 and protect Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents, people with disabilities and older adults with long-term care needs. Let this be your legacy.

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"Save IRIS, Wisconsin's Self Direction Advocates" is a non-partisan association of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to promoting self-direction in Wisconsin.

www.saveiris.org