



May 26, 2016

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members,

The Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin serve individuals and families living with autism across the lifespan in the state of Wisconsin. Many of our members rely on supports currently provided by the long-term care system to work, participate in the community, and remain in their homes.

As long-term care stakeholders, the Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin are concerned about the lack of specifics in the Department of Health Service's Family Care/IRIS 2.0 Concept Paper and do not believe the Department of Health Services has justified the disruption of care to the 55,000+ people currently enrolled in Family Care and IRIS programs.

Specifically, we are concerned about:

- **The uncertain future of self-direction and the IRIS Program:** The concept paper does not reflect the level of self-direction of the current IRIS program. There remain significant questions as to how current IRIS participants will experience self-direction as they do now.
- **The uncertain future of Behavioral Health Services:** The concept paper is lacking details on how behavioral health services may be integrated in the new model.

We also share many of the conclusions made by the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition in their [Analysis of the Numbers behind Family Care/IRIS 2.0 on May 11, 2016](#).

Given that there are no projected savings in long term care as a result of Family Care/IRIS 2.0 and there are still significant questions about the concept plan, we believe that moving ahead at this point would unnecessarily disrupt the lives of over 55,000 Wisconsin residents.

We are writing to ask members of the Joint Finance Committee not to move forward with the Family Care/IRIS 2.0 concept plan as currently written.

Regards,

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