



The Wisconsin Long-Term Care Coalition **Keep Our Care at Home**

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Long Term Care Stakeholders Asking Candidates Where They Stand on Issues Important to People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Before heading to the polls on November 8, advocates for people with disabilities and older adults in Wisconsin are reminding candidates about one of the most important issues they will take a vote on if elected: long-term care.

Election Day is less than 40 days away and stakeholders are asking State Assembly and Senate candidates where they stand on issues important to the 60,000 people with disabilities and older adults who use long-term care to remain healthy and independent.

Major changes to the state's popular and effective long-term care programs including Family Care and IRIS were considered among the most controversial items in the last state budget. These sweeping changes to Wisconsin's nationally recognized long-term care system were introduced without any input from consumers, their families, advocates, providers or other stakeholders.

"We want to know if State Assembly and Senate candidates will give stakeholders--especially the people who use the programs--a seat at the table when important decisions about long-term care are discussed," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove.

Changes debated last session would have eliminated the self-directed IRIS program, replaced Wisconsin-based managed care organizations with national for-profit insurance companies, allowed insurance companies to eliminate provider agencies from their networks and jeopardized locally-run Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

"There was no proof that the overhaul of Wisconsin's long-term care system would have resulted in significant savings or better quality care. We're asking candidates if they'll oppose making changes that disrupt the lives of 60,000 people without any benefit to taxpayers or the people who use the programs," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier.

A full list of candidate questions can be found on the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition's website: www.wilongtermcarecoalition.org.

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