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### **Medicaid Changes Approved by U.S. House are a Threat to Wisconsin's Long Term Care System**

Wisconsin long-term care stakeholders are concerned about the \$839 billion Medicaid funding cut approved today by the U.S. House of Representatives and its impact on Wisconsin's nationally recognized long-term care system.

"These are the most devastating cuts to Medicaid in the history of the program," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Lynn Breedlove. "Cuts of this magnitude will jeopardize the health of more than 1 million Wisconsinites who use Medicaid, including the 60,000 older adults and people with disabilities and more than 6,000 children with disabilities who use Family Care, IRIS and the Children's Long Term Support Program."

Funding provided by the federal government currently covers approximately 60% of the costs of operating Wisconsin's Medicaid program, but the American Health Care Act caps the amount of money states will get for Medicaid. These caps will apply to Family Care, IRIS, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and the Children's Long Term Support Program, which make it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to live in home and community-based settings instead of nursing homes or institutional care.

Stakeholders are concerned that Wisconsin won't be able to make up for the large federal funding cuts created by the American Health Care Act. Wisconsin will either need to add more state taxpayer dollars to its Medicaid budget or find ways to reduce Medicaid spending like cutting provider rates, eliminating benefits or limiting the number of people who qualify for services.

"Wisconsin is set to become one of the first states in the nation to end waiting lists for both its children and adult long-term care systems, but major cuts to federal Medicaid funding will make it difficult for Wisconsin to keep this commitment," said Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition Co-Chair Tom Frazier. "We don't want to go back to the days when people waited decades, or even died waiting, for needed services."

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition calls on the U.S. Senate to oppose the harmful Medicaid funding cuts in the American Health Care Act.

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