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Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Response to Joint Finance Committee Vote

After yesterday's Joint Finance vote to pull Medicaid expansion out of the proposed state budget, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) hopes the governor and the legislature can agree to critical investments to disability programs that Medicaid Expansion would have brought to Wisconsin. BPDD supported expansion and the investment that would have improved the lives of people with disabilities and their families including:

- Addressing the caregiver workforce crisis with wage increases.
- Allowing family caregivers and direct care professional to work additional hours while earning more and keeping critical health insurance.
- Eliminating the waiting list for children with disabilities in the long-term care system.
- Accessing to dental services for people with disabilities.
- Greater quality control and oversight for assisted living facilities.
- Improving access to mental health and substance abuse services including the expansion of crisis services, and rate increases for psychiatrists and other providers of behavioral health services.
- Reducing lead exposure, a preventable cause of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Joint Finance Committee has heard from people with disabilities, their families and other supporters throughout the budget process that Medicaid Expansion would lead to improved health and safety outcomes for people with disabilities. BPDD continues to work with the governor's office and the legislature to support those investments.