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Wisconsin Autism Providers Association Applauds Governor's Budget Investment in Autism Treatment

Madison – Wisconsin Autism Providers Association (WAPA) applauds the Governor's budget initiative to invest in improving access to autism treatment for Medicaid recipients.

"The proposal will significantly reduce access challenges that exist for Wisconsin children and families in need of access to autism treatment, especially families of color and rural families," said Dr. Rebecca Thompson, President of WAPA.

Dr. Thompson continued, "A recent survey of our members estimates that 1300 children with autism are currently on waitlists for treatment. There is a huge return on investment for early access to diagnosis and evidence-based treatment, for the child, their family, and the State. This increased funding will reduce the waitlist and provide more access to services for the underserved populations in our State."

Dr. Thompson, who serves on the Governor's Autism Council, presented at the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council [Symposia Series on Early Access to Autism Treatment](#). She said she enjoyed working on the Symposia Series with Legislative Council and Agency staff, other stakeholders, and Legislators like Senator Andre Jacque to bring visibility to barriers and solutions to autism diagnosis and treatment.

"The Symposia series showed that early access to Autism treatment is not a partisan issue and I'm glad to see one of my priorities gaining attention through the symposium series and in the Governor's budget," Senator Jacque said. "The Governor and I agree on increasing resources for Autism treatment and I support these steps to reduce obstacles for children and families."

Dr. Thompson and her members look forward to working with legislators and legislative leadership during the upcoming budget process.

The Wisconsin Autism Providers Association is an industry association of providers of autism treatment serving over 2000 children in Wisconsin annually. Their mission is to provide access to quality treatment to ALL Wisconsin families impacted by autism. WAPA member companies have over 2,500 employees in Wisconsin reaching children in over 55 counties with a significant presence in all major metropolitan and many rural areas.

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