

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Barbara Beckert, [Barbara.beckert@drwi.org](mailto:Barbara.beckert@drwi.org), 414-292-2724

## Disability Rights Wisconsin Supports Investment in Dental Access

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), the designated Protection and Advocacy system for people with disabilities, is pleased to support Governor Evers' Dental Access Initiative.

Many Wisconsinites with disabilities experience significant difficulties in obtaining regular dental care, resulting in many preventable extractions, a high incidence of periodontal disease, and other reduced health outcomes. Data provided by the Wisconsin State Health Plan, *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*, indicates that 29% of adults with disabilities reported having at least one permanent tooth removed over the past year, and 26% said they had not visited a dentist within the past year.

The Governor's proposal leverages multiple approaches to address inequities in oral health care, including funding to improve access for Medicaid members. DRW is encouraged by the potential to improve access to dental care for many Wisconsinites with disabilities.

*Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for the State of Wisconsin, charged with protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and keeping individuals free from abuse and neglect.*

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### MADISON

131 W. Wilson St.  
Suite 700  
Madison, WI 53703

608 267-0214  
608 267-0368 FAX

### MILWAUKEE

6737 West Washington St.  
Suite 3230  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

414 773-4646  
414 773-4647 FAX

### RICE LAKE

217 West Knapp St.  
Rice Lake, WI 54868

715 736-1232  
715 736-1252 FAX

[disabilityrightswi.org](http://disabilityrightswi.org)

800 928-8778 consumers & family