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**Disability Rights Wisconsin Applauds the Governor’s Budget Proposal  
Investing in Children, Families, and Caregivers**

(Madison) – Disability Rights Wisconsin is very pleased to see the many bold points in Governor Evers’ [budget proposal](#) designed to support Wisconsin families in meaningful ways. With fewer people entering the caregiving workforce and with pressure on family members to provide caregiving, the strain on families has become enormous. The proposal includes targeted steps that address key areas focused on changes to infrastructure, increased flexibility for people working and caring for family members, informational and collaborative resources for paid and unpaid caregivers, and increased rates directed at caregivers.

“It’s clear that the administration has been really listening to people with disabilities and family members who are experiencing challenges, as well as advocates and professionals, in designing the proposal,” said Lea Kitz, DRW’s executive director, “It’s also good to see that the Governor’s Task Force on Caregiving’s recommendations are woven into the proposal.” A few of the points that will be of particular help to people with disabilities and their families include:

- A software platform that matches caregivers and families needing caregivers;
- An increase of Family Care capitation rates targeting improved rates for caregivers;
- Expansion of the tribal aging and disability resources specialist program and the tribal disability benefit specialist program;
- Expansion of FMLA to allow leave for caregiving of people with chronic conditions, and a broader definition of family members who can use the benefit;
- Funding a Family and Guardian Training Program;
- Commitment to serve all children with disabilities in the Children’s Long-Term Support waiver program.
- Patient discharge requirements and standards for hospitals related to caregivers.

In addition to these points, the budget contains many proposals that will make life much more manageable for individuals with disabilities and their families, all who have been finding it increasingly impossible to find caregiving that meets the needs of themselves or their loved ones.

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*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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