



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2016

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Rep. Mark Spreitzer applauds passage of bill bringing FamilyCare to Rock County

MADISON – Today, Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) praised the passage of Assembly Bill 453 by the Wisconsin State Assembly. Assembly Bill 453 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to expand the Family Care and IRIS programs to Rock County in 2016. Family Care and the self-directed services option known as IRIS provide community-based, long-term care services to the low-income elderly and to low-income adults with physical or developmental disabilities.

“I am happy that the residents of Rock County will have access to affordable, comprehensive, and long-term care that encourages independence while recognizing the need for support,” said Rep. Spreitzer. “After almost 10 years of uncertainty, members of our communities can finally get the help they deserve.”

The Family Care/IRIS expansion has been occurring throughout Wisconsin since 2007. After a 2011 freeze on long-term care expansion, a few counties had yet to transition. Rock County adopted a resolution to begin implementation of Family Care/IRIS but has been left waiting. The result has been long waiting lists and uncertainty for Rock County residents as to when to expect Family Care/IRIS.

“I hope the State Senate quickly passes this bill and the Governor signs it so that Rock County residents in need of assistance can move forward with their lives and enjoy all the things that make Rock County a great place to live, work, and raise a family,” added Rep. Spreitzer.

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