



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Nancy VanderMeer

(608) 266-8366

Rep. VanderMeer Encourages Safeguarding Long Term Care Services

Will keep working to ensure that Long Term Care programs remain solvent

Madison – State Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R – Tomah) applauds Joint Finance Committee’s decision to repeal Governor Walker’s Long Term Care proposal included in the 2015-2017 state budget.

“Ever since the Governor introduced his budget plan, I’ve been working to reverse these unnecessary changes to our state’s successful Long Term Care programs,” said Rep. VanderMeer. “I’ve spoken to many people who are deeply concerned. People like Garry and Carla, from Tomah, who shared with me personal stories about their daughter April. She uses the state’s IRIS program, and her parents are concerned that April’s quality of life will be diminished if we don’t reject the Governor’s plan.”

In removing the Governor’s changes to FamilyCare and IRIS, the new proposal gives the Department of Health Services limited authority to negotiate with the federal government on potential changes to FamilyCare to better integrate long term and medical care. The process would include several notable components, such as: mandatory public and stakeholder input, robust, self-directed care with budget authority, preservation of ADRC services, and final approval of any federal waiver applications by legislative Joint Finance Committee.

“As a former board member of Handishop Industries, a community-based organization dedicated to facilitating the developmental, social, vocational, and transportation needs of people with special needs, I know how important Long Term Care programs like IRIS are to individuals like April and her family,” continued Rep. VanderMeer. “I’m glad to have been able to work with the Joint Finance Committee members in making these changes.”

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.