



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DOYLE

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

94th DISTRICT

July 9, 2015

Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing to you today to urge you to veto the elimination of the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) program and the changes to Family Care in the 2015-2017 Biennial Budget bill that was passed by both the Assembly and Senate this week.

The proposed elimination of these programs creates widespread uncertainty for so many Wisconsinites who rely on IRIS and Family Care. These individuals receive quality affordable care that allows them to remain independent and in their homes. This program and Family Care were designed to keep our elderly and disabled out of nursing homes and institutions and to cut down on Medicaid costs. Instead, the budget as passed will completely eliminate IRIS while leaving the future of self-directed care uncertain. Additionally, the budget also turns Family Care from a non-profit to a profit-oriented model which would jeopardize the quality of care and range of options.

As a representative from one of the Family Care pilot counties, I have seen firsthand how vital and transformative these programs have been for my community. I have heard from parents and loved ones who do not know what the future will hold. At every listening session I attended, I heard over and over that the IRIS program needed to be saved. I heard from those who are concerned that taking the operation of Family Care away from homegrown organizations like Western Wisconsin Cares will utterly change the care they receive.

These programs are a win-win for Wisconsin. I urge you to veto the elimination of IRIS and the drastic changes to Family Care to allow these successful programs to continue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my office at rep.doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-0631.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Doyle", written over a white background.

STEVE DOYLE
State Representative
94th Assembly District