



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Leah Vukmir, Member, Joint Finance Committee (608) 266-2512

Rep. John Nygren, Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee (608) 266-2343  
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## **JFC REPUBLICANS PROTECT LONG TERM CARE**

*Members Develop a Plan that Works for Patients and Taxpayers*

MADISON—On Wednesday, Republican leaders on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) revealed their plan to give the Department of Health Services (DHS) limited authority to pursue a waiver from the Federal Government for Wisconsin’s long-term care services. Rep. Dean Knudson (R-Hudson) and Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa) unveiled the details of the plan alongside JFC Co-chairs Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).

Earlier this year, members of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) traveled throughout the state to hold public hearings on the 2015-17 state budget. At each of these public hearings, Wisconsinites expressed concerns with the governor’s proposed changes to long-term care.

“We listened to people from around the state and heard their concerns loud and clear,” said Rep. Nygren. “The governor’s long-term care plan was lacking in detail; it’s for this reason that we are rejecting his proposal in favor of a new plan.”

The plan will integrate long-term and medical care to ensure better care for patients, customers, and doctors, as well as a better value for hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers.

“The goal of this plan is to deliver quality health care options for our most vulnerable,” said Rep. Knudson. “The proposal defines self-directed care in statute, requires public input, and will provide doctors and patients with improved health coordination and outcomes.”

“Creating an integrated program is the future of Family Care,” added Sen. Vukmir. “We will improve health outcomes and create greater efficiencies.”

“The goal is a more efficient and better run system,” Darling said, “That’s exactly what our plan will do, because we are seeking solutions from people directly affected by the program”

Once the budget is voted on and approved by the full Legislature, it will be sent to the governor for his signature. Shortly after, DHS will begin negotiations with the Federal Government to pursue a waiver and sustain long-term care services for Wisconsin’s most vulnerable populations.

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