



Samantha J. Kerkman

State Representative • Serving the 66th Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: State Representative Samantha J. Kerkman

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608-266-2530

Rep. Kerkman Meets with IRIS Participants

Rep. Samantha Kerkman and Sen. Bob Wirch met with constituents yesterday in Kenosha to discuss the benefits of the IRIS program. IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) is a long-term care program administered through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and funded by Medicaid. Through IRIS, qualifying participants can creatively direct their own healthcare needs within a specified monthly budget. The legislators met with two participants and their family members, as well as an IRIS consultant.

“This meeting provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the IRIS program from the perspective of the participants,” reflected Rep. Kerkman. “I’m glad I had the opportunity to get to know Liz and Dakota, and learn about this program through their experience.”

IRIS currently has an enrollment of more than 6,000 in the 57 Wisconsin counties where it is available. IRIS allows participants to live at home, be active in their communities, and work, due to the self-direction aspect of the program. Each participant works with an IRIS Consultant for information, assistance, and setting long-term goals.

Photo Attached: *Back row, from left, IRIS participant Dakota Cates, Sen. Bob Wirch, Dannette Cates (mother of Dakota), Rep. Kerkman. Front row, from left, IRIS participant Pam Duvyst and IRIS Consultant Liz Lesher*

