

**PEOPLE
NOT PROFITS
PROTECT FAMILY CARE
from for-profit insurers**

**CALL SENATOR DARLING
608-266-5830**

Family Care helps the elderly and people with physical and developmental disabilities live independently. The Family Care network of non-profit organizations has worked for 16 years to build a comprehensive set of services that allow people to live on their own, hold jobs, and develop their potential. The Walker administration wants to dismantle this program and turn it over to out-of-state, for-profit insurance companies.

Why? The Department of Health Services wrote that Medicaid cost growth impacts other needs "including...tax relief." The Insurance companies claim they can operate the program at a lower cost. Peg Olsen whose son Eric, 53, has Down syndrome yet lives in an apartment thanks to Family Care said, "Do we really want to fix Wisconsin's perceived budget problems on the backs of people with disabilities?"

How will Walker's plan affect such a vulnerable group of Wisconsin residents? "Savings" means cuts in services:

- With Walker's plan, 55,000 people will lose on average about \$5,000 in state support in six years, one third of their current aid.
- The money will be cut from health services.
- Elderly and disabled persons could lose the care, transportation, and housing which lets them lead full lives outside of institutions.
- Stable, effective non-profit groups will lose \$3 billion in contracts costing local communities hundreds of jobs.
- The Department of Health Services is unable to explain why this change is needed, how this change will be carried out and how to avoid disrupting the lives of the elderly and disabled.

The decision to move ahead on this faulty plan is in the hands of the Joint Finance Committee and State Senator Alberta Darling controls the timing of the vote. We must ask Senator Darling to delay the vote on this proposal. It is too soon to replace a system that is working effectively to enact a poorly planned giveaway to big insurance companies.

Ask Alberta to protect the programs providing vulnerable citizens with the support they need to live a decent life.

Contact Senator Alberta Darling: Telephone: (608) 266-5830
Email: Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov

Prepared by the League of Progressive Seniors, 5/15/16