**ACT Now – Contact Your State Legislators**

**Special Session Bills Impact People with Disabilities**

Legislative leaders are trying to fast-track a package of bills released late Friday. These bills would significantly limit the role of the new Governor and would have unintended consequences for people with disabilities.

Today, the Joint Finance Committee is holding a public hearing (12:30 PM in room 412 East in the State Capitol) on these proposals and is planning to vote them out of committee. The full Senate and Assembly could be voting to pass these bills as early as Tuesday.

You can read summaries of the bills here:

 <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/bill_summaries/2017_19/0001_december_extraordinary_session_bills_11_30_18.pdf>

# **Call your State Assembly Rep and State Senator as soon as possible!**

Call the toll free Legislative Hotline to reach your legislator: 1-800-362-9472 (Give your address and ask them to connect you if you are unsure who represents you. )
You can also look up and call your legislator’s office  directly: [http://legis.wisconsin.gov/](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flegis.wisconsin.gov%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cpugh%40thearc.org%7C03eaaee6edf5410996a008d658c6d837%7C1508d6ca4350484cbe3aea487e334b0e%7C0%7C0%7C636794008407011602&sdata=jyuDeXdZVwpYtEmXIcftkK5THVHIaE07%2B94MK57rGMc%3D&reserved=0)

Here’s what you can say:

* Tell your State Senator and State Assembly Representative that you are concerned about the bills they are passing with little review this week and how they will impact people with disabilities. (Republican leadership  introduced the bills late Friday and the Joint Finance Committee is having both a hearing and a vote on Monday.)
* Ask your representative to slow down the process so there can be more discussion, and time for them to hear from constituents. The proposed changes need public input. People with disabilities and others have not had time to understand these billw and come to Madison to testify. We do not want unintended consequences.
* One of the bills would make it harder for the Department of Health Services to make changes and improvements to programs that help people with disabilities. The bill would impact programs like Family Care, IRIS, Badgercare, MAPP, the children’s waiver program, Katie Beckett and more. This is a BIG change in how these programs work and how changes can be made.
* Proposed changes to Wisconsin elections and absentee voting would decrease participation of voters with disabilities in the electoral process, create confusion, and add to the difficulties and cost for to administer the elections and to provide legally required support for voters with disabilities.

Please make 2 calls as soon as you can Monday morning!