**Contact Your State Legislators Now**

**Extraordinary Session Bills Impact People with Disabilities**

Legislative leaders are fast-tracking a package of bills released late Friday. These bills would significantly limit the role of the new Governor, impact the oversight of services that are important to people with disabilities, and shorten the time for absentee voting.  The Joint Finance Committee voted 12-4 along party lines early Tuesday to approve three bills after making small changes to the legislation.

The full Senate and Assembly will be voting TODAY to pass these bills.

* The proposals give oversight of Wisconsin Medicaid waivers to the legislature, leaving state agencies potentially unable to carry out their core mission.
* This will impact services that are important to adults and families of children with disabilities, such as Family Care, IRIS, mental health services, and Children’s Long-Term Waiver.
* The proposals shorten the time for absentee voting, which will limit voting options for many people with disabilities.
* The rush to advance these changes without time for careful analysis and for you to weigh in with your legislators, can put people with disabilities at risk.

Summaries of the bills are provided here, however, this this does not reflect changes made yesterday by Joint Finance Committee:

 <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 legislature is voting today.)
* 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 shorten the period for absentee voting would decrease participation of voters with disabilities in the electoral process and create confusion.

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