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For Immediate Release

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Disability Rights Wisconsin files *Amicus Brief* warning of potential harm to people with disabilities if Wisconsin's Safer at Home emergency order is lifted prematurely

Madison, WI – Disability Rights Wisconsin submitted an *Amicus Brief* to the Wisconsin Supreme Court supported by 32 state and national aging and disability groups. In their brief (disabilityrightswi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DRW-Amicus-Brief-WI-Legisl-v-Andrea-Palm-042920-acc.pdf) *Amici* partners warn of the potential catastrophic risk to life for people with disabilities and older adults should the Safer at Home emergency order be lifted before safeguards or targets are met. The *Amici* partners pointed out some factors to the court that could lead to a devastating impact on people with disabilities and older adults:

- People with disabilities and older adults are at greater risk of serious complications and death if exposed to COVID-19;
- Congregate settings put people with disabilities and older adults at greater risk;
- Shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) increase risks for people with disabilities, older adults, and their support staff;
- People with disabilities and older adults are at greater risk of experiencing discrimination in medical care;
- People with disabilities and older adults are at greater risk of homelessness.

The Safer at Home order seeks to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by requiring social distancing, consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The *Amicus Brief* was filed in response to a petition to the court asking that continuation of the Safer at Home order be enjoined, or not allowed. The *Amici* partners fear an increased spread of COVID-19 which would disproportionately impact people with disabilities and older adults. They are asking the Supreme Court justices to take into consideration the high risk to millions of Wisconsinites if the order were to be blocked.

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*Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated
Protection and Advocacy system for the State of Wisconsin.*

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