



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Budget Includes Key Aging Network Priorities; Additional Work to Be Done

The **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network** is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

Core member organizations:

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (*ADPAW*)

Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter

Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (*WADSA*)

Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (*W4A*)

Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (*WABS*)

Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (*WAND*)

Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (*WASC*)

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (*WIHA*)

(Madison, WI) The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) celebrates Governor Walker's announcement to include in his budget full funding of the Board on Aging and Long-Term Care Medigap Helpline and permanent funding and support for the provision of Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) ombudsman services for people age 60 and older (a population for whom these services have not previously been made available).

In addition, WAAN appreciates the modest increase in county and tribal specialized transportation funding to provide older adults and people with disabilities the opportunity to remain living in their own homes and engaged in their communities. According to Robert Kellerman, Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources and WAAN spokesperson, "Transportation remains a top concern among older adults. Adequately funding an array of transportation options, including public transit, is essential to the health and well-being of older adults as well as others who do not or choose not to drive."

WAAN also appreciates the Governor's inclusion of a small increase in personal care rates and an increase for direct care providers in nursing homes. This funding is one step of many needed to help Wisconsin address its long-term care workforce crisis. WAAN is pleased to see the Governor include an additional \$100,000 in funding for Alzheimer's research as initially proposed by the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia. We will work with the Legislature and the Governor on funding for other proposals by the Task Force such as expansion of Dementia Care Specialists in Aging & Disability Resource Centers.

WAAN strongly supports restoring annual indexing of the Homestead Tax Credit for inflation for everyone who is currently eligible. We are interested in learning more about program changes included in the Governor's budget.

We look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to build on these aging network priorities throughout the budget process.

Contact

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