

**Caregiver Support – Statewide Call
Advocacy Update
5-27-25**

State

State Legislation

- **Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP)**

Action Alert: Ask Your State Legislators to Protect Wisconsin's Caregiver Support Programs

Senate Bill 152/AB 176 removes income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP will protect \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to all families. SB 152 was recommended for passage by the Senate Committee on Health earlier this month and is now available for scheduling for a full Senate vote. The Assembly's Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee held a public hearing on AB 176 in mid-May and the bill is awaiting a vote by the Committee. There are 9 state Senators and 31 state Representatives currently signed onto this legislation as a sponsor/cosponsor.



Reminder - Take Action: If you have not already done so, please view [Wisconsin Legislature: SB152: Bill Text](#) to see if your state Senator and/or Assembly Representative are signed on as sponsors/cosponsors on the bill. If they are, please send them a message thanking them for their support of family caregivers. If they are not, please contact them and ask them to protect family caregiver programs by signing on in support of SB 152/AB 176. Let them know how critical family caregiver supports are to those you serve. For more information regarding this request see WAAN's:

- AFCSP Issue Brief: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008453>
- Full Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008503>

- **Assisted Living Facility Referral Agencies**

AB 255/ SB 262 – is legislation introduced earlier this month that imposes several requirements related to referring individuals to an assisted living facility in exchange for a fee collected from the assisted living facility. Navigating Wisconsin's long-term care system for the consumer and/or their family member(s) can be complicated, both with coming to terms with our own or a loved one's need for assistance with daily living due to age and/or disability and with finding the right care option that is best for the individual.

As assisted living and other long-term care options have become more prevalent other entities, "Referral Agencies," have entered the marketplace to provide "consulting" services to help consumers and their families to find a place for their loved one to call home. Often these referral agencies advertise this as a free service to the prospective resident or family. But, in reality nothing is really free - there is a price. This legislation is meant to help consumers clearly understand that the assisted living providers they are being referred to by these agencies have a contract and the fees and costs are being passed down to the provider and ultimately the consumer.

Under the bill, an agency that refers a prospective resident to an assisted living facility must disclose to the resident any relationship the referral agency has with the assisted living facility, any fee that the assisted living facility will pay to the referral agency, and the fact that the referral agency lists on its website only those assisted living facilities with which the referral agency has a contractual relationship. GWAAR supports the proposed legislation.

State Budget 2025-2027

In April, the state's Joint Finance Committee's completed its round of public hearings on the State Budget. They held their first executive session of the 2025-27 budget process on Thursday, May 8. In the executive session, JFC voted to remove non-fiscal policy items, as well as budgetary policy items, from the budget and return to a base budget. For a complete list of what was removed, see State Budget Motion #4 -

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/jfcmotions/2025/2025_05_08/000_budget_motions/motion_4_omnibus_budget_motion. Among the over 600 items removed that JFC indicated will not be discussed during the budget process were the following aging network priorities (bolded) and other items impacting older adults and family caregivers:

- Homelessness Prevention Initiatives
- Affordable Housing and Workforce Development Grant Program
- **Board on Aging and Long Term Care – Ombudsman and administrative staff**
- **Automatic Voter Registration**
- Voter Bill of Rights
- Full Medicaid expansion
- **Home-delivered meals**
- Health Care Provider Innovation Grants (previously ARPA funded)
- Home and Community Based Services (previously ARPA funded)
- **Falls Prevention Grants**
- **Respite Care Grant**
- **Guardianship Grant**
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Peer-Run Respite Centers
- Peer-Run Warmline Grant
- Insulin Safety Net Programs



- Insulin Copayment Cap
- **Regional Transit Authorities**
- Transit Capital Assistance Grants
- **Family and Medical Leave Expansion**
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits**

While some of these proposals could be revived in the budget, this has not historically happened, requiring us to shift our focus to stand-alone bills for some of our priority issues.

The JFC will now begin the process of putting together the 2025-27 budget piece by piece and building off of a base budget. The budget is not final until the full Assembly and Senate agree on an identical version of the budget and the Governor signs it into law (which could include items he wishes to change using his partial veto authority).

Please watch for State Budget Action Alerts as additional budget motions are introduced in the future.

For details and talking points on WAAN's budget priorities see:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008488>.

Federal

House Passes Reconciliation Bill with Major Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP

In the early hours of May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed their reconciliation bill - [H.R. 1](#), titled the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," by a vote of 215-214, with only Republican votes. **The final bill passed by the House makes the deepest cuts** (over the next decade) **to Medicaid** (nearly \$800 billion - with 8 million people projected to lose Medicaid coverage) **and SNAP** (\$300 billion- nearly 30% of the total funding) **in the history of both programs**. Because Congress is bound by the statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act which requires any spending to be offset by automatic cuts to avoid deficit spending (anyone remember "sequestration?"), unless Congress takes some action to lower the deficit, **the bill could also trigger an estimated \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare** (reductions are currently capped at 4% of the annual Medicare budget) over the next decade.

The final House reconciliation bill included several last-minute amendments, including:

- **The timeline for implementing new work requirements for Medicaid recipients has been moved up** from early 2029 to renewals scheduled on or after Dec. 31, 2026. The work requirements involve the participation of individuals aged 19-64 in 80 hours of work or specified work-related activities for one or more months preceding application for the program and one or more months between eligibility redeterminations, with some exceptions (pregnancy or a disability that keeps them from working). PBS YouTube video: [How the GOP's proposed Medicaid cuts could affect millions of family caregivers](#)
- **Repeal of Medicaid's three-month retroactive coverage period. Retroactive Medicaid coverage under the bill is limited to one month prior to application for coverage.** Under current law, states are required to provide Medicaid coverage for qualified medical expenses incurred for up to 90 days prior to the date of application for coverage.

- **Medicaid expansion would be disincentivized** by capping the total Medicaid payment rate for inpatient hospital and nursing facility services for non-expansion states (like Wis.) at a higher rate (110% vs. 100% of the total published Medicare payment rate) than expansion states. Should non-expansion states ever choose to expand, their ability to pay doctors and hospitals more would be lost.
- **States would be required to pay at least 5% of SNAP** (FoodShare in Wis.) **benefit costs** starting in 2028. That 5% would increase based on a state's error payment rate based on a sliding scale (up to 25% of the benefit cost). Currently, the federal government pays 100% of SNAP benefits and 50% of the administrative costs (states pay the other 50% of costs to administer the program). In addition to shifting a portion of benefit costs to states, **the bill also increases the state administrative cost-share to 75%. The bill also expands work requirements by providing new paperwork to prove that participants are working, this includes increasing the requirement to include adults aged 54 to 65 years old. The Wis. Department of Health Services calculates that these changes to SNAP will have a fiscal impact for Wisconsin of \$314 million.** For more detail see, "Proposed Changes to SNAP Will Drive Wisconsinites into Hunger and Harm Our Local Economy"-<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/snap-reform-2025.pdf>.

Two-thirds of the people who use SNAP/Foodshare in Wisconsin are also Medicaid participants.

The bill now heads to the Senate. Their goal is to have the final bill to the President by July 4th. The bill only requires a majority vote (51 votes instead of 60 votes due to the reconciliation process rules). The next few weeks are critical as Senate Republicans work to amend the bill in order to gain the needed votes for the bill to pass. The identical bill must pass in both the House and Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Take Action: Senators Baldwin and Johnson need to hear from Wisconsinites about how these cuts and changes will impact you, your family, and/or your community members. See [Wisconsin Members of Congress](#) for contact information. Look for opportunities to connect with them when they are back in Wisconsin (holiday celebrations, parades, listening sessions or town halls) or invite them to your agency for a site visit and to hear from board members and other constituents. See the budget reconciliation bill timeline below:

- **May 23-Jun 2: House and Senate Memorial Day recess**
- June 14-22: House recess
- **June 19-22: Senate recess**
- **June 28-July 6: House and Senate recess**
- July 28-Sept 1: House recess
- August 4: Senate self-imposed deadline
- August: Debt ceiling requires bipartisan negotiations if not passed on partisan lines through current budget reconciliation legislation with cuts to Medicaid.
- August 4-Sept 1: Senate recess