



April 10, 2020

Honorable Robin Vos  
Assembly Speaker  
Room 217 West, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Honorable Scott Fitzgerald  
Senate Majority Leader  
Room 211 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Honorable Gordon Hintz  
Assembly Minority Leader  
Room 201 West, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Honorable Jennifer Shilling  
Senate Minority Leader  
Room 206 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Leaders and Members of the Wisconsin Legislature,

On behalf of Disability Services Providers across Wisconsin, we want to thank you for recognizing the needs of providers, participants, and their families during this public health emergency. Disability Service Provider Network (DSPN) members are prioritizing continuity of services for participants and their families; however, long-term care providers are facing a significant crisis in recruiting caregivers causing unprecedented labor costs during this pandemic. Relief is needed now for these vital long-term care organizations.

*To avoid further disruptions for participants and their families, we ask that any COVID-19 legislation include the following:*

- Clarifies the definition of “provider” to ensure all long-term care providers, including licensed and 1-2 bed certified Adult Family Homes, are eligible for financial relief and liability protection
- Allows for participants to maintain choice of their provider of service

The caregiver workforce was already in crisis before this emergency. To maintain staffing and services, many of our members are exploring creative staffing solutions, however this comes at a cost. Allowing for bridge funding while we are in this moment of crisis will not only benefit the participants we serve, but continued employment for those that are on the front lines providing care.

Thank you for your continued support. We stand ready to continue to work with you and all our government partners to come out of this emergency stronger, together.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Filter, MSP  
President, DSPN Board of Directors



Lisa M. Davidson  
CEO, DSPN

CC: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature  
Governor Tony Evers  
DHS Secretary Designee Andrea Palm  
DHS Assistant Deputy Secretary Lisa Olson  
DHS Medicaid Director Jim Jones