

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMO

TO: All Legislators

**FROM: Sen. André Jacque
Rep. Scott Krug**

DATE: October 24, 2019

RE: Co – Sponsorship of LRB – 4580/1: Independent Living Center Update & Investment Act

DEADLINE: Friday, November 8th at 5:00 pm

Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are the only consumer-based, community based, not for profit, nonresidential organizations serving persons of any age, and with any type of disability in all 72 counties. Unique in the world of human services, ILCs are governed and operated by board and staff composed of a majority of people with disabilities. ILCs are a great investment, as they provide assistance to people with disabilities and older adults to access employment, transportation, housing and maintain/attain independence and health. These cost effective services contribute to keeping people out of costly institutions and nursing facilities (an average savings of 30% per person).

Wisconsin's 8 ILCs (as defined in state statute 46.96/federal WIOA/Sec.482 CENTERS) now have 3 additional services that they are required to provide: 1) transition of people from institutions to the community; 2) providing services to people who are at risk of entering institutions; 3) and facilitating the transition of youth with disabilities to postsecondary life. The current state of funding commitment does not address these additional services.

The 8 ILCs that serve all of Wisconsin have received no increase in state funding for 20 years, despite the increased operating costs each year. ILCs have all seen significantly increased requests for services. The average increase in requests for just core services is 229% over the last 20 years.

Wisconsin's ILCs are being asked to provide more services, for more people, and these requirements necessitate additional funding to be sustainable. Wisconsin's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), approved by DHS and the federal Administration on Community Living states the annual amount of funding needed to adequately provide independent living services statewide is \$5,220,000. However, the current funding is \$2,850,296. Therefore, an additional \$2,343,100 of state funding is needed to meet the statewide service requirements.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill increases the appropriation for the Department of Health Services to make grants to independent living centers to provide independent living services to

individuals with disabilities. Current law defines an independent living center as a community-based, nonresidential private nonprofit agency operated by individuals with disabilities that provides independent living services to individuals with disabilities. Under current law, DHS makes grants to independent living centers, and independent living centers must provide services to individuals with disabilities, including the following: 1) facilitating the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from institutions to home and community-based residences; 2) providing assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and 3) facilitating the transition of youth who have significant disabilities to postsecondary life.