

Disability Rights Wisconsin does not oppose the creation of a Palliative Care Council and is neutral on 2017 AB 633/SB 548. The pushback (much of which is appropriate) from the over-prescription of opioids for pain control may, in the future, result in restricted access to palliative care by those who need it. A Palliative Care Council would be helpful in assuring that palliative care remains a viable option for those who are terminally ill and approaching death. However, the proposed membership of the Council relies too heavily on medical professionals. We believe the membership should include more family members who have experienced the death of a loved one and more representatives from patient advocacy groups. In particular, the Council should include an advocate for people with disabilities. It has been our experience that many physicians have demonstrated attitudes towards people with disabilities that result in premature use of palliative care in patients who are not in the end stage of a terminal illness. We seek additional members to replace some of the duplicative medical professionals that are slated for membership.

MADISON

131 W. Wilson St.
Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703

608 267-0214
608 267-0368 FAX

MILWAUKEE

6737 West Washington St.
Suite 3230
Milwaukee, WI 53214

414 773-4646
414 773-4647 FAX

RICE LAKE

217 West Knapp St.
Rice Lake, WI 54868

715 736-1232
715 736-1252 FAX

disabilityrightswi.org

800 928-8778 consumers & family