



REGARDING THE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM LRB-0888/1 AND LRB-5241/1

DSPN was approached by Rep. James Edming's office to support this bill when it was initially drafted. At that time, the language of the bill was not acceptable to the DSPN Public Policy Committee nor the DSPN Board of Directors, and this was conveyed back to Rep. Edming's staff. The bill's authors reached out to DSPN to work through language changes, which ultimately produced a draft that the DSPN Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors decided to support. We have received feedback and information regarding this bill that has led us to believe that its true purpose has been misconstrued, and that it appears there may be some fear mongering occurring. We **STRONGLY** encourage all of our members to read the bill. You will not find any of the language that is being quoted to oppose this bill.

Read the bill [HERE](#).

DSPN recognizes that building and developing new programming, especially in the community, is expensive, and that many providers do not have the resources to do so. This bill, if passed (after going through public hearings and revisions) offers grant money to develop community-based programming to providers who **choose** to apply for it. This bill does not **require** that providers change anything in their service delivery model.

This bill does not call for the elimination of facility-based services, and does not change any of the current regulations, service definitions, or guidance from DHS. In Section 1 of the bill, it states "Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit access to or choice of allowable services, including prevocational services provided in accordance with 42 CFR parts 440 and 441, in the family care program under ss. 46.2805 to 46.2895, the Family Care Partnership program, and the self-directed services option, as defined in s. 46.2899 (1)."

Additionally, the bill states that subject matter experts do not need to be outside consultants, and can be "those with experience in Wisconsin's long-term care system." In other words, our very own network of providers could be subject matter experts.

While DSPN understands that competitive integrated employment is the optimal outcome for working age adults with disabilities receiving services in Wisconsin's disability services system (per The Employment First Statute - [2017 Wisconsin Act 178](#)), we also recognize that individual's employment services shall be person-centered, self-determined and chosen from a full array of service options, including both community-based and facility-based employment.

Thank you,

DSPN Board of Directors, Jeff Kaphengst & Angie Kieffer

January 15, 2020