



Date: July 11, 2005

To: The Honorable Jim Doyle, Governor

From: Gerry Born, Chairperson

Re: 2005-07 Biennial Budget

The Council is a federally-funded statutory organization that advocates on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. The Council was very pleased that your budget request maintained services and eligibility for Medicaid, increased funding for specialized transportation, and increased funding for special and regular education. Because of the changes made by the legislature, the Council is recommending the following:

Please veto:

- \$16.9 million Medicaid cut in home health care, personal care, and private duty nursing services.
 - The need for these services will only increase with the legislature's approval of the 1440 CIP II relocation slots proposed in your budget. An alternative to vetoing the cut is to take out the language targeting these services and allow flexibility to spread this cut over the whole Medicaid budget.
- Counties' ability to use Community Integration Program 1A and 1B and Traumatic Brain Injury funds to support people in community-based residential facilities with up to 8 beds instead of 4.
 - The state and national trend is towards smaller and more individualized residences for people with developmental disabilities. Please retain the current 4 bed limit.
- Increased co-payments for generic drugs from \$1 to \$3 for Medicaid recipients.
 - All people on Medicaid have very limited incomes. Paying an extra few dollars a month makes a big difference in their lives. Please veto this increased burden on poor people.
- Across the board cuts of 2.3% to agency operating budgets.
 - With continued decreases in resources, the Council is concerned about the ability of the Department of Health and Family Services to function, as well as develop innovative programs.
- Extreme school revenue caps reduction added by the Joint Finance Committee.
 - The education of all children with and without disabilities will be hurt by the caps.

Please retain in the budget:

- Prohibiting DHFS from placing new limitations on reimbursement for psychotropic medication.
 - Significant prescription drug cost savings can only be made by addressing the root problem of costs charged by manufacturers, not by limiting necessary medications for people with mental illness.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ondrejka, Executive Director, at (608) 266-1166 or ondrejka@dhfs.state.wi.us.

CC: Marc Marotta, Secretary, Department of Administration
Helene Nelson, Secretary, Department of Health and Family Services
Donna Wong, Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor