

Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

*16 North Carroll Street, Suite 400, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 267-0214 voice/tty ? (608) 267-0368 fax*

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Contact: Lynn Breedlove
(608) 267-0214

DISABILITY GROUPS OPPOSE TABOR

(MADISON) Representatives of the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations met this week with the Save MA Coalition along with 45 other aging, labor, education, health care, and government groups to oppose TABOR, also known as the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Survival Coalition members concluded that a constitutional amendment is not the answer to the state's fiscal problems. Lynn Breedlove, Co-Chair of the Coalition stated, "It doesn't make sense to put budget policy in the constitution, especially a rigid formula that doesn't take into account economic variability."

Jennifer Ondrejka, Co-Chair of Survival, believes Wisconsin doesn't need TABOR, "A fair system of taxation would not necessitate TABOR – There is enough money; it's just not being used wisely."

Survival members also agreed that any legislative proposal needs to be discussed, deliberated, and studied. Fran Bicknell, a parent advocate, commented, "Legislators need to hear from their constituents, the actual people who would be affected by TABOR."

Bicknell continued, "It wouldn't be fair to introduce it and vote on it within days without any public input."

Survival also opposes any attempt by the legislature to provide exemptions to special interest groups. Michael Blumenfeld, Co-Chair of Survival, said, "As some groups gain an exemption a greater burden is placed on those that remain."

Survival is very concerned about how TABOR would affect people with disabilities. Breedlove concluded, "Demographics of the Medicaid population indicates increased need for long-term care in the coming years. Caps may make it impossible to meet those needs."

The Survival Coalition represents 54 disability groups statewide.