



SAMPLE PRESS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISABILITY WATCH FOR VETOES OVERRIDE

(Madison, September 27, 2001) The Wisconsin Survival Coalition announces a People Can't Wait disability Watch at the state Capitol starting on October 1st and running through October 4th.

People with disabilities and elderly, service providers, family members and advocates will be coming to Madison from around the state to build support for a legislative override of the vetoes Governor Scott McCallum signed in the state budget for the Community Integration Program 1B (CIP-1B) and Community Options Program (COP) programs. People will be gathering all four days, but at noon on Tuesday, October 2 will be the focal point of the Watch.

“Governor McCallum vetoed funding that would have served 1,398 people on waiting lists for CIP or COP,” said Gerry Born, Executive Director of Arc Wisconsin.

The legislature on a bi-partisan basis passed funding that would have assisted 15% of the people waiting for services in the state. The governor's vetoes mean that only 5% of the people on waiting lists will be funded in this budget. Additionally, the governor vetoed funding increases for people already receiving CIP funding. This is a program that has not had an increase in rates since 1994. It is a program that service providers rely on to help pay staff.

People with disabilities and the elderly who choose to live in their own homes rely on these programs to support them. These programs fund basic health and hygiene activities that most people take for granted.

“These vetoes will ensure that people with disabilities and the elderly will have to wait for those services and programs longer,” said Born. “Right now it is common for people to have to wait 5-10 years before they receive services. Imagine having to wait that long to buy groceries.”

The Survival Coalition is a 32-member organization composed of advocates representing statewide disability organizations such as Arc Wisconsin, United Cerebral Palsy, Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, Brain Injury Association of Wisconsin, Autism Society of Wisconsin, People First of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities and many others. Each member is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

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SURVIVAL COALITION OF WISCONSIN DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

For more information on County “People Can't Wait” Coalitions: Arc-Wisconsin, 600 Williamson St. Madison, WI 53703 Toll-free Phone: (877) 272-8400 or (608) 251-9272, fax (608) 251-1403. Email: arcwjim@chorus.net. The TDD/TTY line is at the WCDD (608) 266-6660.