



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

December 14, 2009

The Honorable Mark Pocan
Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Finance Committee
309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

The Honorable Mark Miller
Senate Co-Chair
317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Representative Pocan and Senator Miller:

I am transmitting the Report of the Committee to Study Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFs-MR) in Wisconsin. This Committee was established pursuant to 2009 Wisconsin Act 28, the 2009-11 biennial budget bill, and was charged with studying the need for existing ICFs-MR in maintaining an effective, high-quality, planned system of services for person with developmental disabilities.

The Committee found that Wisconsin has a strong long-term care system for serving people with developmental disabilities, with quality services both in institutional and in community-based settings. The Committee also concluded that the state needs an array of service capacities for people with developmental disabilities to both meet the range of needs across individuals and the varying needs a single individual may have over his or her lifetime. The Committee developed a set of recommendations designed to enhance the quality, access, and choice of long-term care services for persons with developmental disabilities in Wisconsin.

I wish to recognize and express appreciation to the members of this Committee for the time, energy, and thought that they devoted to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary