



State of Wisconsin
Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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POST OFFICE BOX 2659
MADISON, WI 53701-2659
Telephone: 608-266-9354
Website: dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd

Tuesday May 26, 2021

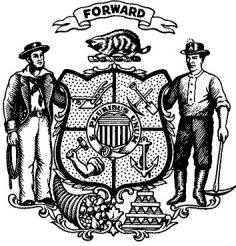
RE: State Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Budget

Dear Wisconsin Representatives and Senators,

I am writing on behalf of the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD). The GCPD exists to advise the Governor, state agencies, and the state legislature on issues of concern for people who have disabilities. Our members include representatives of the Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Council on Physical Disabilities, Statutory Council on Blindness, Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and other individuals who represent the interests of people with disabilities.

GCPD is writing today to express our concern about recent actions taken by the Joint Finance Committee to remove a number of items from Governor Evers' proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-23 budget; items that would have benefitted people with disabilities. GCPD urges you to vote to restore the following items to the budget:

Agency	Budget Proposal
Department of Administration	Diversity Goals for State Procurement: Expand the Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program, which provides certification and preferences in state agency contracting, to include supplier certifications for disability-owned business enterprises.
Elections Commission	Automatic Voter Registration: Create an automatic voter registration process in Wisconsin. Temporary Identification Cards for Voting: Extend the period for which identification card receipts issued by the Department of Transportation for the purposes of voting remain valid as a temporary identification card, from 60 days to 180 days. Student IDs for Voting: Allows a student to use an expired student identification card if they provide proof of enrollment, eliminates the requirement that a student using a current and valid ID card needs to show proof of enrollment and requires the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to issue identification cards that meet voter ID requirements by August 1, 2021. In-Person Absentee Voting: Eliminates the restriction on how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in person and to modify the deadline for submitting an absentee ballot in-person to 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Under current law, voters can only begin casting in-person absentee ballots 14 days prior to an election. Voter Bill of Rights: Requires polling places to post a voter bill of rights.



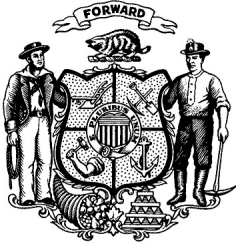
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Agency	Budget Proposal
Department of Financial Institutions	ABLE Savings Account Program: Requires the Department of Financial Institutions to implement or administer a qualified Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings program for people with disabilities.
Department of Health Services	Medicaid Expansion: Accept federal Medicaid expansion funds. CARE Act: Requires hospitals to provide a patient or, if applicable, a patient's legal guardian with an opportunity to designate a caregiver who will receive, before the patient is discharged from the hospital, instruction regarding assistance with the patient's care after discharge.
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	ACA Health Insurance Requirements: Place certain Affordable Care Act protections related to pre-existing conditions and Essential Health Benefits into state law.
Public Service Commission	Broadband Expansion Grant Eligibility for Municipalities: Expand broadband expansion grant eligibility to include municipalities that: (a) lack access to at least two broadband service providers; or (b) lack access to fixed wireless or wired service at speeds of at least 5 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 0.6 Mbps upload speed. Broadband Facilities in Underserved Areas: Modifies statutory provisions that discourage municipalities from providing broadband service to residents in broadband "unserved" and "underserved" areas.
Department of Safety and Professional Services	Dental Therapists: Removes the Governor's proposal to create a licensure process for dental therapists in Wisconsin.
Department of Workforce Development	Employment Transit Assistance Program Modification: Expands the definition of "project" under DWD's employment transit assistance program by repealing the specification that a project be "located in outlying suburban and sparsely populated and developed areas that are not adequately served by a mass transit system." Family and Medical Leave Act Expansion: Expands Wisconsin's Family and Medical Leave Act law to cover more caregiving duties. Unemployment Insurance--Receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance Payments: Repeals the statutory provisions disallowing UI benefits to a claimant who also receives a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payment.



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GCPD appreciates your support of these important budget initiatives. I would be happy to provide additional information about how these initiatives would benefit people with disabilities. I can be reached at (920) 248-9210 or via email David.Morstad@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Morstad", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David Morstad
Chair
Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

CC: Governor Tony Evers, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, Fred Ludwig, and GCPD Members