**RESOLUTION:**3
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Oppose Governor Walker's 2015-2017 Budget Proposal to Dismantle Wisconsin's Current Long-Term Care System, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Family Care Program, and IRIS Program, and Resume Previous Joint Efforts of all Stakeholders to Continually Pursue New Opportunities to Improve the Long-Term Care System

## TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

**WHEREAS**, Governor Walker's 2015-2017 Budget proposal would dismantle Wisconsin's nationally-admired Long-Term Care (LTC) system currently serving nearly 55,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities, and substantially reduce legislative oversight of the LTC system; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget proposal would eliminate IRIS; radically change Family Care and replace all eight (8) existing regional, homegrown LTC Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) with statewide for-profit health insurance companies providing both health care and LTC services using a no-bid process; and give authority to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to eliminate county-run Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) by contracting out all or many of their functions; and

**WHEREAS**, this massive upheaval was initiated with no input from people receiving LTC services or their families, aging or disability advocates, ADRCs, local officials, MCOs, provider agencies, the State's Long-Term Care Advisory Council, or legislators; and

**WHEREAS**, the current LTC system was the outgrowth of four (4) years of intensive LTC reform planning involving LTC consumers and families, aging and disability advocates, providers, and county and state officials, resulting in strong bi-partisan support for an LTC-only version of Family Care, which now enjoys very high customer satisfaction ratings; and

**WHEREAS**, the hoped-for reforms have actually been produced by the current system: creating locally-based ADRCs to provide prevention and one-stop information on LTC for all citizens, reducing nursing home utilization, and reducing the portion of Medicaid spent on LTC; and

**WHEREAS**, the current system of Family Care, IRIS, and ADRCs has created huge savings for taxpayers while maintaining quality, reducing the Medicaid portion of the budget from 53% in 2002 to 43% in 2011, reducing the nursing home population by 11,000 individuals, keeping administrative costs for Family Care down to 4.2%, and limiting MCO surpluses to 2%; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRIS Program, which began in 2008, provides a non-managed care, free-market alternative for people who want to self-direct all of their services and this popular unique and flexible program has grown rapidly to its current enrollment of 11,500 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, ADRCs have become a nationally-recognized model and one of the most important roles of county government to meet a variety of needs and reduce the costs of a growing LTC population; and

WHEREAS, the SeniorCare Program continues to be extremely successful at meeting the needs of very low-income older adults in Wisconsin. The proposed changes would significantly increase the out-of-pocket costs for very low-income seniors. The average cost for a Part D plan in Wisconsin is \$61/month, and requiring SeniorCare enrollees to first purchase Part D insurance would increase their total out-of-pocket costs by an average of \$732/year; and

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WHEREAS, SeniorCare is very cost-effective with the largest share (61.4%) of Program costs coming from rebates from pharmaceutical companies, 20% from federal matching, and 18.6% from Wisconsin GPR. Any "savings" in GPR would result in at least the loss of an equal amount of federal matching dollars and the loss of 100% of the rebate revenues (\$52.9 Million in SFY 2013-2014); and WHEREAS, all of the projected \$14 Million in savings in state and federal funds in the 2015-2017 budget are the result of current expansion of the existing LTC system into seven (7) northeast counties, and there are no projected additional savings resulting from the Governor's proposed changes in LTC. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby opposes Governor Walker's Budget proposal to dismantle Wisconsin's Long-Term Care (LTC) system, and supports Wisconsin's efforts to retain its existing successful and cost-effective models of Family Care, IRIS, and ADRCs and the current level of legislative oversight; make these models available in all counties to sustain quality and achieve further savings; and resume previous joint efforts of all stakeholders to continually pursue new opportunities to improve the LTC system.. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the Winnebago County Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all legislators representing constituents within Winnebago County. Respectfully submitted by: **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** Committee Vote: 10-0

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57 58 59 60 61 62 Vote Required for Passage: Majority of Those Present 63 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this day of , 2015. 64 65 66 67 Mark L Harris Winnebago County Executive 68

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