

**Example of Testimony for Joint Finance  
Committee Hearings – April 2017**

**Family Voices of WI**

Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
Madison, WI

April 1, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

**My name is XX and I am from XX (town/city). I am here today to encourage the Joint Finance Committee to support the Governor’s budget proposal to add \$15.8 million to eliminate the wait lists for children who are eligible for Long-Term Supports through the Medicaid Waiver. Those state funds will generate federal funds so a total of \$39 million will be added to end these waitlists for kids.**

**Right now over 2600 children in Wisconsin with significant disabilities are waiting for services – some wait 5 to 8 years depending on what county they live in.**

**I am a parent of a (age of child) with a disability.** Add a few details about your child .. maybe when they were diagnosed or how their disability impacts their ability to participate in school or other activities.

- Then talk about your experience being on a waiting list and why that was hard for your family.
- Did waiting create additional costs or financial hardship for your family? Did it add medical expenses (more visits to the hospital, unnecessary tests, treatment, etc.)?

*For example- After my child with diagnosed, we realized we would need help so my husband and I could continue to work and care for our other children. We were told about the CLTS waiver program and worked with our county to apply for the program. However, after all the paperwork and meetings with case managers, we were informed that our child **did** qualify but we would likely wait close to 5 years before county funding would be available – **5 years on a wait list is too long!** Additional supports and help during those critical first 5 years would have made a huge difference to our family. I ended up having to cut back and then quit my job which negatively impacted our whole family.*

**That is why am here today – taking time away from my work and my family – to strongly encourage your committee to approve this funding to counties so that no child or family in Wisconsin has to be put on a wait list before they can receive much needed Children’s Long Term Supports for their child with a profound disability.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

Telephone Number /Email

**Attach a photo of your child**