

This is what I want to say....

1. Say who you are, where you live, and what (if any) group you represent.

My name is _____ and I live in _____ I am a parent/grandparent of a child with a disability. I am here as part of a group from Family Voices with 30 other families from around the state.

2. Explain the issue or problem that concerns you. (If available, include information and data to support your position.)

Example #1 - I want to talk with you about the long wait list for Children's Long-Term Supports, a program providing support to children with the most significant disabilities and their families. In my county most families wait over 5 years even after their child is found eligible for the long term support programs.

Example #2 - I'm here today to talk to you about why Medicaid is critically important to my family and many other families who have children and teen with disabilities. I am worried about how proposed changes to Medicaid (including Block Grants) will impact our ability to get the health care, supports and community services we need.

3. Share a personal story or experience about how the issue or problem is affecting your life.

Example #1 - We have been on a waiting list for the Children's waiver for 3 years. The program will provide case management to help us find services in our community. Last summer we couldn't find any summer programs that would take my son because of his behaviors – the Long-Term Support Program could help us find resources in our community for my son that allow us to continue to work and meet the needs of other family members.

Example #2 - My family has private insurance through my employer but my child also qualified for Medicaid. Medicaid helps us pay for my child's medical equipment, her physical therapy and care at home. For my child and thousands of other children and adults with special needs, cuts to Medicaid may mean that my child does not receive critical medical services that maximize her development and reduce the need for more costly services.

4. Explain what you think needs to be done to fix this issue or problem (this is your "Ask").

Example #1 - Please support the proposed elimination of wait lists as recommended in the Governor's budget. Providing funding to counties to end this wait lists will make a big difference to my family and over 2,000 other families waiting for services right now!

Example #2 - Please maintain Medicaid as a state federal partnership with adequate funding to meet the needs of eligible children and families. Let the Governor know Wisconsin families who have children with disabilities need Medicaid benefits to pay for care so we can work and keep our children safe at home.

5. Ask if the Legislator can support your issue.

Will you support funding in future state budgets to fully fund the Children’s Long-Term Support Programs (administered by counties)?

(If meeting with Legislative staff) ... Will the Senator/Representative oppose Medicaid block grants and can he communicate this to Governor Walker?

6. Thank You and Share Contact Information

Thank you for your time! Here is my card with my contact information. Will you have the Senator get back to me soon and let me know if he has any questions? I can call/email you with more details next week.

Family Voices of Wisconsin – www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com