



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

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LIFT THE FAMILY CARE CAP AND HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS NOW

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic released the following statement calling on State leaders to follow a directive from the Federal government by ending the enrollment cap for Family Care:

“The State of Wisconsin’s lack of action on Family Care is deeply disappointing. As a member of Milwaukee County’s Commission on Aging, it is my duty to look out for the interests of individuals who have nowhere else to turn.

“Despite a recent letter from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services stating that any individuals not enrolled in Family Care since the July 1, 2011 cap should be immediately enrolled, the Walker administration and the Legislature have been slow to follow this directive.

“It’s time for the Governor to comply with this letter from the Feds directing the State to begin enrolling people currently on the wait list. Hundreds of seniors are on the wait list for Family Care because of the State-imposed cap. It’s been about ten years since there has been a wait list for seniors in Milwaukee County. The Feds have now directed that the cap be lifted, but that has not yet occurred. Legislation is needed to immediately lift the State’s enrollment cap without diminishing service to elderly residents and those with disabilities.

“In his State of the State speech earlier this week, Governor Walker touted that his funding for Medicaid allowed the State to ‘expand Family Care...all across the State.’ Yet, the wait list persists, and the Walker administration’s efforts to end it are sluggish. The lack of swift action from the State wrongly denies individuals of benefits for which they are eligible.

“State leaders are proposing significant reforms to offset the expected costs of lifting the cap. The State Legislative Audit Bureau recently found the Milwaukee County Department

of Family Care to be fiscally sound. The State must hold public hearings in Milwaukee County before proceeding with any draft reforms to ensure that the safety, health and welfare of our residents is maintained.

“Every day that the State fails to change its course is a day too many for our residents in need. The cap should have never been instituted, and these individuals have been waiting since July. In fact, many individuals with disabilities have been waiting for years. We need immediate action, as directed by the Federal government.

Supervisor Dimitrijevic is the Supervisory Delegate on the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, which discussed the Family Care enrollment cap this morning.

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