



# *Milwaukee County*

## Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8<sup>th</sup> District

For Immediate Release October 17, 2011  
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager  
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

### GOV. WALKER WAIT LISTS FAMILY CARE, BUT SUPPORTED IT AS COUNTY EXEC.

**Milwaukee, WI** – On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Scott Walker’s Department of Health Services formally requested a waiver from the Federal CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) requesting permission to create waiting lists for the Family Care program. The wait list started July 1. **The list already includes 442 elderly citizens and 1,501 individuals with disabilities.** Compare this act of creating waiting lists to the following compelling statements from Scott Walker when he served as Milwaukee County Executive (last names have been removed):

“John, who is 40 years old, lives with his mother, Joan, and requires considerable assistance, including help with all of his daily personal care needs. John’s father, Terry, died last year of heart disease and John’s brother has been helping to provide for John’s care. John has been on the waiting list for services since 1994 and is waiting for residential services to provide the help he needs. In this budget, we propose to eliminate those waiting lists by expanding Family Care to people under the age of 60 with developmental and physical disabilities. We eliminated the waiting lists for older adults and we will do it again for people with disabilities. And, we continue to expand the number of older adults who are enrolled in the current Family Care program.” -- (*County Executive Scott Walker, 2009 Budget Address, September 25, 2008*)

As a member of the newly formed Aging and Disability Resource Center Governing Board in Milwaukee County, I am concerned about services for the elderly and disabled in our County. It is my mission to periodically call these numbers into the public arena. Prior to July of this year, Family Care was a creative, innovative program that maximized resources, eliminated waiting lists, and kept folks out of more costly nursing homes when community care was appropriate.

“People like Paul are already signing up for the new Family Care program. Paul lives with his 87-year old mother, Eleanore, and has been on the wait list since 1996. They will be part of the first group to move off the wait list for people with disabilities into the new Long Term Care system. Paul and his mother are here today.” -- (*County Executive Scott Walker, 2010 Budget Address, September 24, 2009*)

On behalf of the 442 elderly and 1,510 disabled citizens of Milwaukee County and all future citizens added to the list, Jursik is calling on elected representatives in Washington, D.C., to actively petition CMS to deny this waiver request and require the State to comply with Wisconsin’s prior planning for Family Care.

“Please remove the cap on Family Care. Residents like John and Paul cannot wait,” Supervisor Jursik added. “There will be serious costs to the community if this wait list is not eliminated.”

###