

Save IRIS www.saveiris.org

Contact: Julie Burish, Brookfield, 262-784-9627 jaburish29@gmail.com Meg Steimle, Wauwatosa, 414-774-0175 msteimle2@me.com

## Save IRIS to Deliver Petition with over 6000 Signatures to Legislators

For Immediate Release: May 18, 2015

On Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in Room 415NW at the Capitol, members of the grassroots movement Save IRIS will deliver to legislators, a petition signed by over 6000 citizens concerned about the elimination of IRIS. Save IRIS will thank legislators who have supported the removal of changes to long-term care from the budget.

IRIS participant, Melissa Prentice of Wind Lake shared why she started this petition, "I realized that not only would the loss of this program affect myself and my family, but the thousands of other families on IRIS. IRIS is budget friendly, gives thousands of people jobs, and helps to give support to so many who need it." Save IRIS brings this petition to Madison on her behalf because she is unable to travel.

Save IRIS members will also hand-deliver a letter to the offices of Joint Finance Committee members. "We continue to have questions and concerns about the future of IRIS as a separate Medicaid waiver program," says Meg Steimle of Wauwatosa, the parent of a son who uses IRIS.

The big question that IRIS participants have is: Will this plan guarantee that IRIS will continue as a unique and separate self-directed Medicaid waiver program or does the JFC anticipate that all long-term care programs will be under a managed care system?

###

"Save IRIS" is a non-partisan grassroots movement of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to preserving IRIS- Wisconsin's only long-term care option in which participants completely self-direct their supports and services.