



# Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Survival Coalition of Disability Organizations Supports Comprehensive Statewide Solutions for Training Direct Care Workers**

(MADISON) – The Survival Coalition of more than 30 statewide disability organizations supports Governor Evers’ veto today of Senate Bill 103/Assembly Bill 76 that would reduce training requirements for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) from the current 120 hours to the federal minimum of 75.

Survival Coalition recognizes the dire direct care worker shortage in Wisconsin and supports the Governor’s Task Force on Caregiving in its charge to seek comprehensive solutions to the workforce crisis, including training strategies. Specifically, the Task Force is charged with strategies to retain a strong direct care workforce and to develop solutions in collaboration across state agencies and programs to strengthen the workforce to improve quality. Research shows that increased training reduces job turnover while increasing job satisfaction.<sup>1</sup>

With the recent creation of a Caregiver Task Force, the Survival Coalition anticipates that advocates and the legislature will be able to develop and advance a comprehensive package to better address the caregiver crisis. The Task Force will review and address training issues for the overall direct care workforce, including establishment of a career ladder to increase respect for and quality of the workforce.

The broad charge of the Task Force on Caregiving recognizes that many policies need to be addressed to improve the workforce. Passage of individual pieces of legislation now without the benefit of the work of the Task Force and its 29 diverse and experienced stakeholder members, which includes people with disabilities and family members, risks making changes that do not improve the workforce crisis and may have unintended long-term consequences. Task Force recommendations are expected by October 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Han, K., Trinkoff, A.M., Storr, C.L., Lerner, N., Johantgen, M., Gartrell, K. (2014). Associations between state regulations, training length, perceived quality and job satisfaction among certified nursing assistants: Cross-sectional secondary data analysis. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 51 (8), 1135-1141.