



November 21, 2019

Contact: Beth Swedeen, (608) 266-1166

WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Agrees Direct Care Shortage Needs Multi-Pronged Solutions

(MADISON) – The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) supports Governor Evers’ decision yesterday to wait for the statewide Governor’s Task Force On Caregiving’s recommendations to address the state’s serious direct care worker shortage by vetoing Senate Bill 103/Assembly Bill 76 that would have reduced training requirements for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) from the current 120 hours to the federal minimum of 75.

BPDD hears from all corners of the state about the severity of the worker shortage, and supports the Governor’s Task Force on Caregiving in its charge to seek comprehensive solutions to the workforce crisis. However, studies have found that reducing the number of training hours required for certified nurse aides (CNAs) and other direct care staff neither attracts more workers nor does it result in improved care for people with disabilities.

The Task Force membership is diverse and provides strong expertise from all parts of the state. Its charge is broad, and includes developing a set of strategies to address both the hiring, support and retention of direct care workers, and how to support unpaid family caregivers. Task Force findings and recommendations should be available in October of 2020. BPDD supports waiting until the release of those findings before developing individual pieces of legislation.