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**“Save IRIS” asks the WI Legislature to, “Save our voting rights.”**

(Milwaukee) Disability and disenfranchisement should not go hand in hand. Voting is already difficult. Being a caregiver is already difficult. Needing and finding care and support is already difficult. Additional barriers to voting will disenfranchise people. At a time in which Wisconsin has a caregiver shortage and families are under stress, our leaders should be looking at ways to make voting easier rather than harder. *Save IRIS, Wisconsin’s Self-Direction Advocates*, asks Governor Evers to veto the voting bills passed by the legislature as they will have a negative impact on people with disabilities, older adults with chronic health conditions, and people with transportation limitations. These bills will also disenfranchise caregivers who cannot get away to vote and will not, in many instances, even be allowed to ask a neighbor to return absentee ballots on their behalf. The bills eliminate the option for people with disabilities to be a permanent absentee voter and always receive an absentee ballot and create multiple steps to prove that they are “indefinitely confined.” This creates an undue burden on people with disabilities and their caregivers.

“I provided in-home care to my elderly parents for over 18 years,” said Nancy Gapinski of Glendale. “It is obvious that the people writing these voting bills do not have much experience as caregivers. Anyone who routinely assists a loved one with doctor appointments, transportation, bureaucratic forms and processes at places like the DMV, knows that these voting bills will create more problems than they solve.”

*Save IRIS* would like the assembly legislators to work with the disability and aging community to address barriers to voting and make elections more accessible, not less.

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*“Save IRIS, Wisconsin’s Self Direction Advocates” is a non-partisan association of IRIS participants and their allies dedicated to promoting self-direction in Wisconsin.*



[www.saveiris.org](http://www.saveiris.org)