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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

## 2011-12

(session year)

## Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

## Committee on Health...

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (October 2013)



Assembly Representative: Stone  
Senate Representative: Lazich

Hello my name is Vickie Lawrence.  
4960 South Greenbrook Terrance, apt. 17307, Greenfield, WI 53220  
[BrownLA14@uww.edu](mailto:BrownLA14@uww.edu)  
414-519-9977

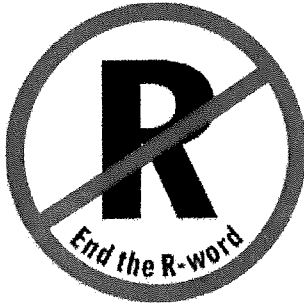
**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because it is a very harsh word and it hurts me when it is said. No one should be called that.** Plenty of times! I hear people say, he can't walk and can't talk! People treat me differently in action, thereby implicitly stating through action that just because I use a wheelchair means they think I am deaf and that I am dumb. I am an MBA student with an IT emphasis at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, carrying a GPA of 3.7+. I would appreciate it very much if the societal stereotype would be eliminated in general and especially in leadership and legal functions!

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services from IRIS.

(Here's what my life looks like:) To social functions, employment, and school. When not in class or at work, in the library and on campus studying. Also, I work out at the YMCA to stay in the best shape possible. Good health (YMCA workouts), education, employment, social well-being. Funding for help at home helps me around the house with household tasks which if I didn't get help for would preclude me from doing anything stated in this survey. I couldn't get out of the house to go to school, work, social functions, workouts, doctor appointments, etc. Also, these services funds transportation and YMCA costs so that these activities which ensure my physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being are accessible to me physically, economically, and logistically through self-determined supports. So that I can enjoy the outcomes in my life that make me whole despite my disability / medical condition (See above). I wouldn't be able to be whole as a person, work, go to school, have a good quality of life, and have good health; I would wind up in a nursing home (oops, dirty 12 letter pass phrase as I hate nursing homes with a passion - screw big business!!!!) Power to the people!!!! The heck with big business and nursing homes, self-determination makes quality human lives accessible to people with disabilities, gives them choice AND SAVES TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OVER INSTITUTIONAL LONG-TERM CARE MODELS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Please keep allowed services as liberal and as unique as peoples' lives & choices, especially attendant care and transportation (including self-reimbursed mileage for those who own their own vehicles, capable of driving who can save taxpayers even more \$)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Assembly Representative: Strachota  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello my name is Sofia Walz-Chojnacki.  
8007 Portland Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law.** It matters to me because when I heard my friend Stacia tell me that my friend Erin who has the same ability as me and she said if she was retarded and I did not what to say at that time and I felt like saying first of all she is not and she is my friend and second of all don't say anything like that again because I was hurt and I'm sure that friend Erin was hurt as well and it affects all kinds of developmental Disabilities as well. I do not have an obvious disability...but like everyone in our world, I am not perfect. All of us have our strengths and weak areas. I am not good in math. When I was in school, I struggled with chemistry and biology. I am not "able" to understand how an atom can be split...or how to describe, much less understand, the human genome. But just because I am not able to talk about and/or understand these high level abstract concepts does not mean that I am not a worthy human being deserving of as much respect and dignity as the person who can.

I receive support through IRIS.

I go to work in the morning, work out at a health club, return home to use the computer, eat, participate in choir, Special Olympics, and watch TV. I enjoy work and spending time with friends. I go to activities at Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI), Special Olympics and the library.

IRIS allows me to have a job coach so I can hold a job in the Community at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Walgreens; I use a health club so I can work out to feel good physically and mentally. To like to meet people in the community, use the bus to get to work and to other social events

I might lose my job without a coach. I might not be able to use a health club and would gain weight and may need health services in the short term. I may not be able to participate in activities through MCFI which keeps me active and engaged in activities with friends.

I want others to be able to be considering for LTC so that they can have a life in their own home and their community and not be in a nursing home. This is very necessary for good mental health and physical health. In the long run keeps people out of hospitals and nursing homes.



Assembly Representative: Strachota  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello my name is Heather Chasty.

851 Birchwood RD., West Bend, WI 53095

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it matters.** Because feelings get hurt. It made me feel like I need to stand up.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through Family Care

Here's what my life looks like: I get up and get dressed and come to Our Place, my day programming service. At Our Place I have classes, such as political actions, self-advocacy and ice skating. Classes that teach me life skills, build friendships, I work with my worms. I live on my own and I need to be responsible, but I have staff that is very important to me. They help me with my medications and taking care of my health. Spending time with family and friends is important to me because during the holidays I get to go visit them and chat with them. They helped me find a place to live, they helped me get into day programming, they make sure I'm on track with my life Without the support I receive I would be back with my mom. They give me a sense of responsibility. They help me achieve my hopes and goals. My health would deteriorate. I would be living with my mom. I wouldn't be active.

I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Taylor  
Senate Representative: Miller

Hello my name is Dean Plon  
809 Topaz Ln., Madison, WI 53714

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because It's not right to say retarded.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through COP/CIP Legacy Waivers.

I go to the Marc Center during the day and on Fridays I work at Walgreens. I like getting to go bowling, playing Wii. Staff helps me out, transportation. Without their support I would live at an institution.

**I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!**



Assembly Representative: Taylor  
Senate Representative: Miller

Hello my name is Abby Webster  
1414 LakeView Ave., Madison, WI 53704

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because it makes people feel better to not hear those words.** I had to switch schools and had a tough time, got a lot of prank calls.

I am a person with a disability on the waiting list for services.

I still live at home with my parents. I can't get the support I would need to move out of the house.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!



Assembly Representative: Taylor  
Senate Representative: Miller

Hello my name is Cindy Wegner

1110 N. Sherman Ave. #208, Madison, WI 53704  
608-244-4825

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it’s inappropriate to say, it’s not a good word to say, it hurts people's feelings.** I was called mentally retarded at a doctor's appointment, in order to get supports. It made me sad, it felt rude, they should use a different word, like disabled or handicapped.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through COP/CIP Legacy Waivers.

Here’s what my life looks like: I have workers that come in seven days a week, they help me cook and clean and shower. I go to art classes and do things out in the community. Being able to live on my own, being able to do things, managing my budget. My staff goes grocery shopping for me, take me to doctor's appointments and do special things with me. They help me pay my bills. I have trouble with math and stuff, and I wouldn't be able to keep it straight. I would have overdrafts. It gives me something to think about during the day, I get to see people and do things out in the community. I wouldn't be able to live on my own; I would have to live with a roommate.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!



Assembly Representative: Taylor  
Senate Representative: Miller

Hello my name is Gerry Lupi.  
5668 Pond Rd., Madison, WI 53718

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because  
People with special needs find it very disrespectful, very discourteous. In high school  
I was bullied by someone who had special needs too.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through COP/CIP Legacy  
Waivers.

Here's what my life looks like: I get up for work in the morning; I work for six or seven  
hours. I have a family that loves and appreciates me, good friends that help me with what  
I need. Without that I would be living in a miserable place or miserable neighborhood.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help  
everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to  
be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!





Assembly Representative: Strachota  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello my name is  
Ashley dock  
1825 sunset ridge, west bend, 53090  
[ilvsimpsons34@hotmail.com](mailto:ilvsimpsons34@hotmail.com)  
414- 617-2398

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it’s a terrible word to use towards people with disabilities.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through care Wisconsin.

I go to Our Place Day Services. I spend time with my family they give me these services to do things and no because they allow me to pay my rent. It wouldn't allow me to do the things I'm doing

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Strachota  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello my name is Daniel Albert

3935 Hwy. D, West Bend WI, 53090  
[danjames74@hotmail.com](mailto:danjames74@hotmail.com)  
(262)334-4349

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because all people should be respected! In a park playing a game?**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through Family Care Partnership.

I volunteer and go to classes for a new job and place to live on my own exercise, going to moves, coffee shops. I want to do it on my own. I could not function.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live.

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Jacqu

Senate Representation: Lasee

Hi I'm the parent of Chermaine Meissner,

2810 Forest Ave., Two Rivers, WI 54241

[cmm0818@yahoo.com](mailto:cmm0818@yahoo.com)

**Mental retardation should be removed from the laws because these words have a negative connotation. Certain words can automatically cause some persons to have thoughts or actions that are not proper.**

Our son's treatment is covered by private insurance

Weekday mornings my son with Asperger's struggles to get ready and out the door to school on time. There are many days that there is a mini meltdown, perhaps because the weather is too cold so outside play is not allowed or there is a substitute teacher, etc. After school, he attends a day care at school, which he usually does well with (unless the situation is not playing out as he anticipates it will). While at day care, he does some of his homework. Time at home he spends finishing homework, if necessary, then usually watches TV or plays Wii. Bed time is usually not a struggle, unless he is upset about something. Without being able to work through issues and learning from a trained person there would be regression on learned processes/behaviors.

I would like for all persons in need of services to get what is needed for him/her to being a functioning person in society....to be independent. The wait will be too long, the younger the person is when services start, the better for the individual and society.



Assembly Representative: Hintz

Senate Representation: King

Hi I'm Gary Arms,

420 East Melvin Street, Oshkosh Wisconsin, 54901

[garyarms1962@gmail.com](mailto:garyarms1962@gmail.com)

**I think you should vote to remove "Mental Retardation" from legislation because it degrades people mental retardation down to a piece of dirt and that's not the way we wanted be treated.**

I receive support through Family Care. Family Care helps pay my medical expense. I personally need to get out exercising. I am trying to go back to work and like to go fishing. Family Care makes sure all my medical bills are taken care of. I would rely on my family to pay to help pay my medicine and hospital bill. I am very fortunate to have Family Care. I would be concerned if I did not have it.





Assembly Representative: Hebl

Senate Representation: Miller

Hi I'm Josh Gretebeck,

631 8th Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

[Joshgretebeck@gmail.com](mailto:Joshgretebeck@gmail.com)

**I think you should vote to remove "Mental Retardation" from legislation because "mental Retardation" is very offensive to me and my friends. I think that Wisconsin should remove the words Mental retardation from its vocabulary and do it quickly.**

I am a person with a disability receiving COP/CIP Services.

I go to work Monday thru Friday. I enjoy going out with friends and family. There are many things that are important in my life. I like going to work, spend time with friends and family. I am living in my own house for the first time. My friend Rick doesn't have support and is not receiving any help at all. He needs all the support he can get.

.....



Assembly Representative: Jacque

Senate Representation: Lasee

Hi I'm the parent of Ted Edwards,

3207 Whistle Lane, Two Rivers, WI 54241

[traescot@gmail.com](mailto:traescot@gmail.com)

**I think you should vote to remove "Mental Retardation" from legislation because our language needs to evolve with our understanding so it is time for words like mental retardation to go.**

Ted receives support through the Children's waiver.

Right now Ted still goes to high school. After school he receives in home behavioral support. He likes to go shopping on the weekends and have dinner out with his family. In home help provides structure and routine to Ted's day. He is aggressive so keeping his routine is vital. Ted becomes aggressive without strict routine.

Ted is on the wait list for adult programs. I worry that the programs won't exist by the time Ted gets off the wait list. I am concerned that since Ted is still on the children's waiver that a young child in desperate need of intervention will be made to wait until a slot opens up.

I am a parent who is very worried about how I will manage caring for my child without any help. I worry that young children most in need of early intervention are being forced to wait for services that can help these kids thrive.



Assembly Representative: Wynn

Senate Representation: Cullen

Hi, I'm Rick Patzke,

230 South Oak Street Apt.207, Oregon, WI 53575

[petzkerick@yahoo.com](mailto:petzkerick@yahoo.com)

**I think you should vote to remove "Mental Retardation" from legislation because it's a hurtful stigma or label and it affects people with disabilities differently.** For me it has made my life depressing, anxiety, loneliness, mistrusting, and hardly any friends to speak of.

I am a person with a disability, receiving no services at this time.

I do volunteering because I can't work and don't get SSDI but I do have a hearing on Jan.27 and hope to get it.

I need a social worker and a mentor to help with daily things such as making phone calls on my behalf and the mentor would help me stay focused on things so I can get things done. I think it would improve my life or at least be easier. I've never had any support and I have a lot of challenges that I deal with and it's very hard. I have trouble making phone calls, people on the other end don't understand me and it's frustrating to say the least. I have trouble with housework because of it and it rarely gets done. I look to other sources or nonprofits to try and help those in need.



Assembly Representative: Knudson

Senate Representative: Harsdorf

Hello I am Kari Vinopal

744 Ryan Drive, Suite 201, Hudson, WI

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law. The "R" word is no different than other painful words that have been historically used toward other people. This minimizing and degrading term should be removed from all written and spoken languages.**

As an advocate, I have played a role in many trials and successes of people with intellectual disabilities. The "R" word has a negative connotation and the mass publics misuse and understanding of the impact the word has on people in our community is extremely painful.

I am an advocate.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!**





Assembly Representative: Stroebel

Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello I am Geraldine Kultgen

306 w. Monroe St, Port Washington, WI

[Rgkultgen@yahoo.com](mailto:Rgkultgen@yahoo.com)

262-284-5663

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. We can be judged as who we are and not by our disabilities. I was called retarded by my cousins. Their mother told them not to play with me. I felt sad and cried. Mental retardation to some people means they are dangerous people with a mental problem.**

I am a person with a disability

I am working at Portal, but if a cap on Family Care is going to be put into place I might not have a place to work.

**Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**



Assembly Representative: Stroebel

Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello I am Aaron Gresch

W57 N517 Hilbert Ave., Apt 12, Cedarburg, WI 53012

[greschman00@hotmail.com](mailto:greschman00@hotmail.com)

262-370-8738

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It is hurt full to be labeled and I feel put down.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services with Family Care.

I work from 10-2 at Aurora Hospital every day. I then go home to my apartment or hang out with friends. At night I watch TV and get ready for work the next day. Going to work is very important, living on my own is something I had always wanted to do and now I do. Family Care helps me by supplying a job coach for my job. Someone comes to my apartment once a week to help me with cooking, my bills and anything else I have problems with. I don't think I would be able to live alone or work alone without some support. I wouldn't have a job or a coach or I couldn't do recreational activities with my friends.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!**



Assembly Representative: Staskunas

Senate Representative: Vukmir

Hello I am John Olson  
11322 W. National Ave. #207, West Allis, WI 53227-3136  
[olson.john92@yahoo.com](mailto:olson.john92@yahoo.com)  
414- 545-8338

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because it is mean now to say to anyone and hurtful to be called the "R" word. Last year, in probate court, when I was trying to get my older brother removed as trustee from my Special Needs trust b/c he stole from it, he called me "retarded" in front of the whole court and it hurt me bad, embarrassed me and I felt ashamed.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services from IRIS.

I am still looking for a PT job in food service through DVR, but keep active during the week w/ a variety of activities so no day is typical, e.g. equine therapy, YMCA workouts X 3, taking cooking classes, working on my hook rug, volunteering at Norway House, serving on Milw Area Time Exchange Inclusion Team, People First Milwaukee advocacy mtgs/activities, Best Buddies Corporate Citizen Chapter w/ManPower Group, going to dances, DSAW member, CWMA member, Special Needs Sunday school, etc. Having a PT job, making my own decisions, spending time w/ friends doing things I like to do, volunteering, buying my own house to live in, being as healthy as I can be. IRIS lets me make my own decisions about the quality of life as I define it. W/o it I could not have equine therapy, YMCA workouts, geriatric massage, respite dollars, supportive living help to keep me integrated into my community, personal care assistance to keep me safe in the shower and help w/ my medications and is there when I am acutely sick, supportive home care that helps me w/ meals and cleaning and transportation as I can no longer use the bus system. Optimal supports through IRIS let me live my life--the one that I choose --to the best of my ability. IRIS also is important to me b/c it allows my family caregiver to finally have some compensation for the care they have given me freely before IRIS, all these years and succumbed to personal bankruptcy to do so! W/o all these supports, I would most likely b/c a ward of the state and institutionalized in some manner, somewhere--and at much greater public cost. I would liken shorten my lifespan significantly and die early. I would be removed from the life & relationships I knew for 60 years and denied the life, liberty, and pursuit of my own happiness as a "free citizen" in my own country. In short, I would not have what I consider, an autonomous independent life, rather no "life" at all!

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!**



Assembly Representative: Sinicki

Senate Representative: Larson

Hello I am Tyler Fech

3735 E. Plankinton, Cudahy, WI 53110

[anjnkev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anjnkev@sbcglobal.net)

414- 483-3176

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because words have power and they can be hurtful to people with or without special needs.**

I am in middle school and some new people that didn't know me started to make fun of me behind my back while I was giving a presentation in my home ec class with my sister. My sister told them to knock it off and she got mad. And, then my friends got mad at those other kids and said not to make fun of me because they liked me just the way I am and I am smart, too! Those mean kids made me feel bad, but my friends and sister made me feel good about myself and I smiled because I know I am smart and special!

I am a youth with a disability.

I will have nowhere to go when school ends. I want to work and am not sure how I do that without some support. I would like to live on my own with help someday. It means that my mom or dad would have to quit one of their jobs to support me on a job and help me get a job. Words are knowledge and very powerful. People still think that those of us with disabilities can't do many things because they look at the labels that we have been given and don't look at US for who we are and what we can do, our hopes and our dreams, just like everybody else.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!**



Assembly Representative: Ripp

Senate Representative: Miller

Hello I am Tracy Schroepfer

224 Shato Lane, Monona, WI 53716

[tschroepfer@wisc.edu](mailto:tschroepfer@wisc.edu)

608-263-3837

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It makes a huge difference to those who have a developmental disability, and to those who love and support them. A person is not their disability and, certainly, the words "mental retardation" carries with it images of people in institutions who are incapable to doing anything. These words damage and hurt people with disabilities and continue to perpetuate the myths of deficits.**

I do not have a disability but did have a sister with Down Syndrome, who was called a retard and viewed as stupid. It was painful to hear people used the term and, especially, to hear healthcare professionals call her mentally retarded. My sister, who is deceased, was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and my nephew has a developmental disability I think the words are damaging in that they perpetuate the myths that people with a developmental disability are unable to function.

**I would like to ask you to remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Caps are for bottles, not people!**



Assembly Representative: Knodl  
Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Jeremiah Swisher,

7055 N. Seneca Ave, Glendale, 53217  
[jeremiahswisher@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremiahswisher@yahoo.com)  
414-460-3774

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it's important to be politically correct and people with disabilities have different abilities. They are not disabled nor are they retarded.** With using the term retarded it shows that people with disabilities have a limited ability to understanding things when I looked up the term further on the internet. People with disabilities have a great ability to understand. We just learn things in different ways and instead of being noticed for our problems. We want to be noticed for what we can do. In some situations people with disabilities such as myself might need an alternative format to communicate or go about living in everyday life. Please give people with disabilities a chance as we have amazing abilities! There is nothing about us without us! When people use the term retard it makes me feel terrible. It's like someone is calling me retarded because I didn't do the particular task right. However when you have a disability you don't get to choose whether you are born with one or not. Using the term retard focuses on someone's limitations. People with disabilities are not limited; they just need alternative ways when it comes to communicating or living day to day life etc. What's honestly wrong with being different? There is no one size that fits everyone. I've always wanted to fit in my entire life but somehow people looked at my disability verses my abilities. I had a hard time relating with people and people had a hard time relating with me. I wish that we can all come together and work together even if we have some differences. Using the R word reinforces the discrimination barrier for people with disabilities.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services from IRIS.

Here's what my life looks like: Monday to Thursday I go to school and I live on campus. Friday to Sunday I work at the movie theater when I'm living with my parents. I remember being excluded. I just started on IRIS despite the waiting list took forever. Overall without my services I wouldn't be going to college as I'm unable to afford for it. Also I wouldn't be living as independently as I am now without those services.

I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: LeMehieu  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello my name is Rhonda Klein  
7463 Brookhaven Dr., West Bend 53090  
[rhondaklein@hotmail.com](mailto:rhondaklein@hotmail.com)  
262-629-9386

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it hurts my feelings. When I came along with the Special Olympics ribbon it said mental retardation which I had to take it to the board. I felt upset.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services from Family Care.

Here's what my life looks like: I go out and exercise. I also like to shop just to look around and window shop. Having relationship with Donna and Larry cause their like my dad and mom. My health issues and my organization of my money and my house that I can stay there. So I have a house and a roof over my head so they can help with money problems if I would have them. I would be on the streets, no money.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law! Remove the R word from the Special Olympics

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Zepnick  
Senate Representative: Carpenter

Hello my name is Demaine D. Richey Jr.  
2230 W. Layton Avenue #109, Milwaukee, WI 53221  
[drichey2@wi.rr.com](mailto:drichey2@wi.rr.com)  
414-405-8477

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because the persons who have special disabilities shouldn’t be labeled.** All the time in grade and high school and sometimes as an adult. Made me feel angry.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through IRIS.

Here’s what my life looks like: Wake up, attend any appointments, job search, visit friends, go to advocacy meetings, church, eat meals prepared by SHC worker, watch some TV and go to bed, finding a job, spending times with friends, living independently, staying safe and healthy. I am currently waiting for my IRIS plan to be readjusted for the last two years. Currently I receive DLST and SHC and job development. I do need job coaching, transportation and health club membership that will strengthen my muscles and help with diabetes. W/o them I cannot live independent in the community to my fullest potential. My physical and mental health would deteriorate quickly causing me to have to live in a supervised environment

I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!





Assembly Representative: Grigsby  
Senate Representative: Coggs

Hello my name is Jerome Holzbauer.  
1744 North 58th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208  
414-774-7253

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because "Retard" is the most commonly used epithet and slur against people with a disability.** It is equivalent to using the word "nigger" against African Americans and the word "bitch" against women. I had been mimicked, mocked, and ridiculed by some students because of my disability of cerebral palsy (tremor type) at high schools where I taught special education students for around 15 years. "Mr. Shaky" was the most common epithet.

**I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live.

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Knodl  
Senate Representative: Darling

Hello my name is Cynthia Bentley.

430 W Hampton Ave Apt 3, Milwaukee, WI, 53217  
[cbentley@wi.rr.com](mailto:cbentley@wi.rr.com)  
414-961- 8795

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it is hurtful. When I was in school it made me sad.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through IRIS.

My days vary, but i usually go to work at 7:30 and I usually have a few meetings each week about different issues affecting individuals with disabilities. I enjoy going to work, paying taxes participating in Special Olympics, and being with my friends. IRIS helps me with my job, they help me keep my house clean and helps me keep my life stay stable and healthy and helps me stay as independent as I can. It helps me be in more control of my services. They are not dictated to me. They help me make my own decisions. If I did not have IRIS I would be lost in my community. I might get into trouble.

I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Hintz  
Senate Representative: King

Hello my name is Stacey Skoning.  
2599 Village Lane, Oshkosh, 54904  
[Skonings@uwosh.edu](mailto:Skonings@uwosh.edu)

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because people with disabilities are much more than their disabilities. They need to be recognized for their strengths and their contributions, not for their limitations.** The "R" word is often used to make fun of those who do not have disabilities, likening them to those who do. This comparison is hurtful to everyone.

I am a parent of a youth with a disability. I don't know enough about the particulars of these to be able to comment intelligently, but I do have a friend whose child used up his life time mental health allocation through their insurance by the time he turned 10 years old. That cannot be allowed to happen.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. The words we use affect the way that we think about ourselves and each other. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Berceau  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is David Ballmann  
1004 E Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because  
All people need to be treated with respect and dignity. I have been disrespected  
numerous times, and it makes me feel very inferior.**



Assembly Representative: Berceau  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Charlie Brooks.

814 Melvin Court, Madison, WI 53704  
[cboulfood@hotmail.com](mailto:cboulfood@hotmail.com)  
608-852-6754

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because It would limit one less word of disgrace to describe another Person. I can compare it to the "N-Word" that people use.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving SSDI.

Medicines, walks and rest. Positive thinking. don't have it. I am sure they are needed and help. I sure the support People receive is greatly needed.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.



Assembly Representative: Pocan  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Danielle Kaiser

734 Sauk Ridge Trail Apt C, Madison, WI 53705  
[danielleconley1@yahoo.com](mailto:danielleconley1@yahoo.com)  
608-608-203-8386

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because the R word places a stigma on individuals and comes filled with preconceived notions. It leads people to lead with ideas about a person based on deficits or what a person cannot do, or even a belief the person cannot do Anything. The R word identifies a person by something she cannot control. And some people will only identify a disabled person by the R word and nothing else. Not as a person who has something to contribute. not as a person who can make decisions about what she wants to do with her life, not as a person at all. I have been fortunate enough to not be witness to by daughter being called the R word while I was within earshot. But the thought of her being called this name makes me very emotional and filled with bad feelings. We don't use the N word or other negative, derogatory, inciting, fighting words in relation to other minority groups in 2012. Let those with intellectually disabilities no longer bear the burden of the old fashioned, last century, stigmatized label.**

I am a parent of a youth with a disability. I am a parent who will have to quit my job if my child has nowhere to go when school ends.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.



Assembly Representative: Berceau  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Frank Johnson.

123 E State St., Madison, WI 53703

I am a parent of a youth with a disability. **I am a parent who is very worried about how I will manage caring for my child without any help.**



Assembly Representative: Ripp  
Senate Representative: Miller

Hello my name is Rita Schwan-Zeier.

4804 Maher Ave., Madison, WI 53716  
[rasz59@gmail.com](mailto:rasz59@gmail.com)

I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because this is a word used too loosely in society and in small circles of social interaction that pits people into a negative light ... we need to be fresh and innovative people in this day in age and support one another to use words of support vs. destroying. The "R" word is and should remain a name of the past. Yes, I used to stutter and stammer for 11 years of my life--ages 7-18yr; Ave. intelligence ... I am now a special education teacher of 23 years ... I remember as a child being called Rita Retard because of my inability to talk real fast without stuttering... this only happened 1 time ... but I can still remember to this day - I am 53 years of age. When I hear students in high school/parents say the "R" word I remind them ... we don't use that word anymore ... they stop and say ... "oh I, I, I..." and I say, "Cognitive Challenges" and they say "what does that me" ... I like to see people have to think about what they are saying ... be innovative and put each person in a "positive light".

I am a teacher who wants to support our youth to live a positive, supportive, enjoyable, productive life.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!





Assembly Representative: Pocan  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Patti Kraemer.

18 Jacobs Court, Madison, WI 53711

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because the R word is demeaning and negative and does nothing to describe the person's disability.** I do not have an intellectual disability, but I do have a disability and have heard the term invalid used to describe others who have my same disability. I am not an invalid (being without foundation) I am a person with a disability - I am valid.



Assembly Representative: Berceau  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Dan Remick.

616 E. Dayton St. #5, Madison, WI 53703  
[danremick@gmail.com](mailto:danremick@gmail.com)  
608-255-6968

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because I feel that it is not a good word to have.** I would use the word disability. I never had a birthday when I was in the institution. Other residents beat me up and called me names because of the way I talked and walk. I was not very happy. It made me feel bad.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through COP/CIP Legacy Waivers.

I go to a community exercise class two days a week. I work one day a week, and I have meetings on the other days sometimes. I love going to work because it means a lot to me to work with people with disabilities in the state of Wisconsin. I live with two roommates with disabilities. They help me with personal cares; they help me get to places on time. I would not be able to do these things without staff to help me be safe. Because I get the support I need and helps me become independent. I would not be able to do personal cares and would be in danger.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!



Assembly Representative: Berceau  
Senate Representative: Risser

Hello my name is Jeffrey Johnson.

641 W. Main St., Madison, WI 53703  
[jjohnson1@wisc.edu](mailto:jjohnson1@wisc.edu)  
608-263-5556

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because Saying the R word hurts people's feelings and it is very rude.** I got called the R word when I was at Southern Wisconsin Center. I got very upset, mad and got in fights with people. This word can be hurtful to people with disabilities. When I was locked up in the institution many years ago it made feel really mad and got into some fights.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through COP/CIP Legacy Waivers.

Here's what my life looks like: Monday through Thursday I work, I like to gamble and watch sports and TV on the weekends. I go shopping, and go out in the community and do activities. Staff, having my own place to live, having a roommate, having live-in staff, being able to make my own decisions and choices about my own life. I get rides from staff and job coaches to work and community activities. They support me when I get hurt or have seizures. My supports help me to live and be safe. I wouldn't have a place to live, might still be in an institution, or in a bad neighborhood or living situation. I might get into trouble.

I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin!



Assembly Representative: Ott

Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Kathleen Slife

1831 Blackfoot Avenue,  
Grafton, WI 53024

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. Mental retardation is an antiquated term. We know so much more about disabilities now.**

I am a parent of a youth with a disability. My son has a form of autism, Asperger's. He was constantly called "retarded" when he was in school. However, the opposite is true. His intelligence probably is greater than those calling him names!

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**



Assembly Representative: Ott

Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Beverly Shaughnessy

11200 N. Bobolink Lane, Mequon WI 53092

[gardetto07@hotmail.com](mailto:gardetto07@hotmail.com)

262- 242-9053

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because there are many ways that I am retarded, even though people call me normal...I am retarded from playing concert piano...I am retarded from being a neurosurgeon...people would say that retarded people have cooties and would stay away...**

All People want to lead an independent as possible life. Please lets instill dignity to every man, woman, and child.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!



Assembly Representative: Molepske

Senate Representative: Lassa

Hello I am Deb Pierce-Johnson

3944 O'Keefe Court, Stevens Point, WI 54482

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because this word is too often used in a very disparaging manner...to insult or hurt another person.**

I do not have an obvious disability...but like everyone in our world, I am not perfect. All of us have our strengths and weak areas. I am not good in math. When I was in school, I struggled with chemistry and biology. I am not "able" to understand how an atom can be split...or how to describe, much less understand, the human genome. But just because I am not able to talk about and/or understand these high level abstract concepts does not mean that I am not a worthy human being deserving of as much respect and dignity as the person who can.



Assembly Representative: Milroy

Senate Representative: Jauch

Hello I am Reggie Leckel

5726 Cummings Ave., Superior, WI 54880

[familracing@yahoo.com](mailto:familracing@yahoo.com)

218-343-7183

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It's plan wrong. I like mental challenge is a nicer way of saying it.** My daughter gets call that and I know she hurts from it because she starts to cry. She is 34 years young in body wise but her mind is like a 2 years young.

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services with IRIS.

There is no typical day every day is not the same. To be able to go out and shop with my mom without being call names or stared at. It helps my mom to get a break from me and I make new friends threw the girls that come and help me out. To give my mom a break like I said. I miss the girl's that I made friends with and my mom is over worked.

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

**Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live.**



Assembly Representative: Cullen

Senate Representative: Vukmir

Hello I am Cathy Maccani.

1510 N 67 Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. **I do not like having the R in my Down Syndrome. People on the bus make me feel angry when the people call me names.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through IRIS.

I go to the mall, work class, MCFI outings, library. I like going to work and living in my own home, spending time with friends like circle of friends. Participating in Special Olympics, Down syndrome Association. I need my IRIS funds to pay for my live-in support and staff care worker. I use transit to see my friends and get to work. I use my support to get around to the library. I would not be able to get around without this support. It helps me a lot because I can get around on my own, I can live in my own house with a support person, and I can have a job in the community. If I did not have this support, I would live in a nursing home or an institution. I would not be able to have a job in the community or get around to see my friends.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law! Respect ALL people in Wisconsin!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!





Assembly Representative: Craig

Senate Representative: Lazich

Hello I am Susan Love.

11077 W. Forest Home Avenue, Apt 16N  
Hales Corners, WI 53051

I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law. **Never will the R word be associated with any positive image.** I have a physical disability and the C word (Cripple) captures the same effect. **People still attach negative labels to me and the low self-esteem causes me to doubt my value to society, to let my talents remain hidden and wasted.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services.



Assembly Representative: Bewley

Senate Representative: Jauch

Hello I am Deanna Yost.

80775 McCulloch Rd, Washburn, WI 54891

[dyost@nhnorth.com](mailto:dyost@nhnorth.com)

715-682-7171

I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because research is showing that people are not necessarily slow or retarded, but that they learn differently

**I am a parent of a youth with a disability. My son was often called retarded and his sisters were also harassed. It is old fashioned and it does not at all describe people. It forces all individuals into a group that is then devalued.**

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people!  
Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Bewley

Senate Representative: Jauch

Hello I am Cecelia Peterson.

458870 East Cable Lake Road, Cable, WI 54821

[cmpeterson@cheqnet.net](mailto:cmpeterson@cheqnet.net)

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It lacks dignity and respect of the person. It is demeaning and labeling and negative. It is not an inclusive term. My sister was often bullied with this word and made her life miserable.**

I am a sibling of an adult with a disability. I am her guardian. She is a person who finds it difficult to attain a job in the community. If there is a cap on IRIS support will not be available to get a job. **Any labeling is hurtful and separates many people who have much to offer to the community at large.**

I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin!  
Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people!  
Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Bewley

Senate Representative: Jauch

Hello I am Carla Peterson.

13380 First Street, P O Box 515, Cable, WI 54821

[blackmarvel@cheqnet.net](mailto:blackmarvel@cheqnet.net)

715- 798-2525.

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because we are people who deserve respect. When I was 10 years old-- I felt degraded, and left out.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services with IRIS.

I make my own meals. I do chores around my house. I get help with grocery shopping, meal planning, and transportation through IRIS. I visit friends in my community. I have shoveling jobs in winter and gardening in summer. I participate in Special Olympic sports skiing basketball track and swimming. Going to work, visiting friends, spending time at home and volunteering in my community. I like Special Olympics, biking, fishing, kayaking, dog sitting and hunting. I get rides to these events. I need IRIS to live as independently as I do. Without these supports I would not be able to do Special Olympics and other events. I need help managing my money and budgeting. I need help for my frustration. I would not be able to live independently.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Bernard Schaber

Senate Representative: Ellis

Hello I am Robert Kuhr.

P.O. Box 155 308 Second Street, Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

[rkuhr3@new.rr.com](mailto:rkuhr3@new.rr.com)

920- 486-7063

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because it hurts other people's feelings. It sounds disrespectful to people with disabilities. I was in High School at the time and some bullies called me the "r" word. It made me feel angry inside that they would call me that word.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through CIP/COP.

I work five times a week. I usually keep myself busy doing things for others. I love going to work, going to the ARC, spending quality time at home with my wife, cat and dog. Todd Stevens Assoc. helps me so I don't go over my social security limits. I would not be able to do that without their support. It is important to me so I don't lose my social security benefits. I would most likely lose my social security. I couldn't imagine my life without these supports.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!**



Assembly Representative: Bernard Schaber

Senate Representative: Ellis

Hello I am Jennifer Kuhr.

P.O. Box 155 308 Second Street,  
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952

[jkuhr1973@gmail.com](mailto:jkuhr1973@gmail.com)

920-486-7063

I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because it is a very hurtful word. **No one deserves to be called a hurtful name. I was at work when a customer called me the "r" word. It hurt me a lot because the customer judged me on my looks not me as a person.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through CIP/COP.

I work part time. I belong to the ARC. I spend time with my husband, kitten and dog.

My husband and family are important to me. I love being in my own home. They help me keep track of my hours for social security. I wouldn't be able to do it without the support from Todd Stevens & Associates. I would lose my social security benefits. I couldn't imagine my life without my supports.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Bernard Schaber

Senate Representative: Ellis

Hello I am Don Fascio.

329 Lisbon St., Menasha, WI 54952

[dfascio@new.rr.com](mailto:dfascio@new.rr.com)

920-720-7965

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because it's a nasty word. It hurts my feelings when people use it. It's a mean word.**

I am a person with disabilities but I no longer qualify for services.

I work part time in the community and rely on public transportation to work. I live in my own home. I like my job at Bergstrom Automotive, owning my own home, People First, technology, wrestling and racing. Right now I have to private pay for my support person. So we have to do only the most important things that need attention right away. I need help paying my bills, banking, setting up Doctor appointments, grocery shopping, keep the house organized and set up home repairs. I pay for help when I have the money. I have to pick and choose what we can squeeze in the time.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live.



Assembly Representative: Lemahieu  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello I am Mary Sherman.

1512 Riverview Dr., Kewaskum, WI 53040  
[appasherman@yahoo.com](mailto:appasherman@yahoo.com)  
262-626-1332

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law.** I feel that it falsely leads people to assume that these magnificent People can't be functioning and productive yet we have numerous so called "NORMAL" citizens who aren't even intrited in the productive life they would like to LEAD!! I'm not Developmentally challenged but am a Survivor of a severe Stroke so do have some small problems with memory and word recall, I am also a Polio Survivor so was never accepted by so-called Normal kids and paid a heavy price for the pronounced limp that I had or the miss-matched legs, I endured a lot of bullying from others, Remember one thing "NORMAL" I feel is a relative word, We are all chasing our idea of NORMAL THOUGH IT IS WARPPED IN IT'S meaning I feel!!

**I am a person with a disability currently receiving services.** Currently I have nothing in place. I am an ADA advocate in Washington County but do work with a team in Milwaukee, I and my Service Dog, Gambler are also Volunteers throughout the community. In my life My family and my dog are the most important, being able to stay in the Home I am in with my daughters family is important because I can go by my timetable, Though the Home isn't as accessible as I wish it could be, In this home it isn't a fight to keep my Dog, I spent some time in Rehab this past summer and though I was Independent transfers & allowed to leave the floor however when I transferred to a recliner it was more often than not that an aide would place my chair across the room out of my reach, My dog retrieves my chair when it rolls away, This is a big reason for a person like myself to stay in my own home or remain with family. I am currently looking into supports For one a help in respite care possibly having some assistance to bath in the mornings, It would receive the duties for my daughter so that she could get away for a couple of day resulting in a lower incidence of Burn-Out.

**I currently have nothing in place,** I am in the process of researching the programs with the help of ADRC. I am currently researching the programs available to me with the help of the ADRC.

**I would like to ask you to remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**





Assembly Representative: Lemahieu  
Senate Representative: Grothman

Hello I am Kira Tanck.

185 Jefferson Ave., Hartford, WI, 53027

[kirat@charter.net](mailto:kirat@charter.net)

262-673-2898

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law.** Disabled people will be treated with respect then I could not join a club because of my disability.

**I am a person with a disability currently receiving services Family Care.** I go to Our Place that has classes like ice skating, theater, party planning etc. I like living at home with my mom and being very active in my life with friends and activities. I would not be able to work or go to our place they help me with my work and having my classes at our place would not have a job or anything and just sitting at home doing nothing.

**I would like to ask you to remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Knudson  
Senate Representative: Harsdorf

Hello I am Korey Thompson.

1626 Pinewood Lane #4, Hudson, WI 54016

[korey.thompson@att.net](mailto:korey.thompson@att.net)

715-386-4035

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law** because we aren't retarded, we are disabled. Yes, I think that makes the person who called me that a retard!

**I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through IRIS.** I also get SSI & DVR. I'm mostly at home, slowly learning more on starting my own business since nobody will hire/keep me. Driving, riding my horse, doing art especially embroidery. Also spending time w/friends & neighbors. They help with monthly bills to keep my horse at a stable, help pay for people to help me drive when & where I can't, help with communication, and DVR will help start my career & IRIS will do all the other stuff plus help me keep my career. I wouldn't be able to do these things unless I married a smart, rich, caring, cowboy. They help me live without being "in prison", basically that would be a nursing home. I would go insane and kill myself or break lots of laws.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law** and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS.** People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Make it easier & quicker to get DVR started.



Assembly Representative: Knodl  
Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Lauren Brennan.

4814 W. Willow Rd., Mequon, WI 53092  
[brennanjamm@hotmail.com](mailto:brennanjamm@hotmail.com)  
262-238-1423

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law.** Calling people the "R" word is disrespectful. People throw the word around to insinuate that someone is not as intelligent as others. Intelligence isn't always measured by IQ. My daughter is disabled and when this word is used as part of her diagnosis it seems somewhat primitive and does not reflect current politically correct phrases.

**I am a parent of an adult with a disability.** My daughter cannot work - she requires total care. IRIS has helped us as we care for her. It is not politically correct in a day and age where everything must be.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS.** People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Knodl  
Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Sue Noegel.

w164 n10502 Timberline Court, Germantown, Wisconsin 53022  
[suenoegel@yahoo.com](mailto:suenoegel@yahoo.com)  
262-293-9125

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law.** It makes us feel bad. People will holler from their cars or comment at the store about my disability. It makes me feel bad when people say mean things to me.

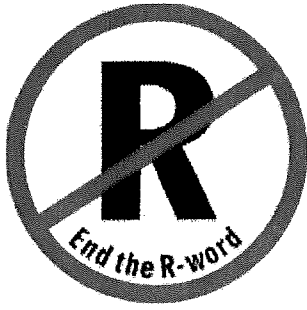
**I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through Family Care.** I go to work at a day service and get to take fun classes and make new friends. I learn life skills and build relationships. Going to work is important because I get out of the house, spend time with friends and learn new things. Spending time with family and friends is important to me because my mom is getting older and I love seeing all my siblings and their kids. It gives me something to do.

**Living on my own is important to me because I don't have to answer to anyone,** I don't have to have anyone taking care of me and I get a chance to be more independent. I live in a group home that they sponsor and they are teaching me how to take care of myself and be on my own. They support your day programming that allows you to work and build relationships with others.

**Without the support I would be lost.** I wouldn't be able to be out and about or have a place to live and work. I wouldn't have the life skill training I get help with now. I'd be living with my mother or in an institution. I would sit home and watch TV all day.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law** and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS.** People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people!



Assembly Representative: Knodl  
Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Roberta M. Dowsett.

4843 West Glen Cove Ct, Mequon, WI 53092

[billnbo@aol.com](mailto:billnbo@aol.com)

262-238-9137

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law because people with developmental disabilities are more like other people than unlike other people. They do not deserve to be defined by their disability, which is what Mentally Retarded denotes. It makes me feel "less than" my friends.**

**I am a parent of a youth with a disability.** I am a parent who is very worried about how I will manage caring for my child without any help. I am a parent who will have to quit my job if my child has nowhere to go when school ends.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

**Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS.** People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!



Assembly Representative: Kerkman

Senate Representative: Wirch

Hello I am Gordon Simanek Jr.

2830 Arlington Ave., Racine, WI 53403

[gorgy59@yahoo.com](mailto:gorgy59@yahoo.com)

262-672-9191

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It has always been used as an insult by the media. Most people use the word as an insult because of that.** When I was younger kids called me that word because they knew it was a way to tease me about my disability. It made me mad and hurt my feelings.

I am a person with a disability on the waiting list for services.

It is hard to go places. I do not drive. Transportation is my biggest need.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people!  
Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!

Assembly Representative: Honadel  
Senate Representative: Larson



Hello I am Lawrence Brown.

1100 Marion Ave. Apt #102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172  
[BrownLA14@uww.edu](mailto:BrownLA14@uww.edu)  
414-519-9977

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because laws, professional documents are no exception to the inane, outdated social norm of using the "R" word; the "R" word is no longer acceptable in society, is demeaning and disparaging in nature.** Please stay professional in all communication, and do unto others as you would want done unto you if the shoe were on the other foot. If the shoe fits, wear it! I hear people say, he can't walk and can't talk! People treat me differently in action, thereby implicitly stating through action that just because I use a wheelchair means they think I am deaf and that I am dumb. I am an MBA student with an IT emphasis at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, carrying a GPA of 3.7+. I would appreciate it very much if the societal stereotype would be eliminated in general and especially in leadership and legal functions!

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services with IRIS.

I go to social functions, employment, and school. When not in class or at work, in the library and on campus studying. Also, I work out at the YMCA to stay in the best shape possible. Good health (YMCA workouts), education, employment, social well-being. Funding for help at home helps me around the house with household tasks which if I didn't get help for would preclude me from doing anything stated in this survey. I couldn't get out of the house to go to school, work, social functions, workouts, doctor appointments, etc. Also, these services funds transportation and YMCA costs so that these activities which ensure my physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being are accessible to me physically, economically, and logistically through self-determined supports. So that I can enjoy the outcomes in my life that make me whole despite my disability / medical condition. I wouldn't be able to be whole as a person, work, go to school, have a good quality of life, and have good health; I would wind up in a nursing home (oops, dirty 12 letter pass phrase as I hate nursing homes with a passion - screw big business!!!!) Power to the people!!!! The heck with big business and nursing homes, self-determination makes quality human lives accessible to people with disabilities, gives them choice AND SAVES TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OVER INSTITUTIONAL LONG-TERM CARE MODELS!!!!!!!!!!!!

**I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people! Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS! Please keep allowed services as liberal and as unique as peoples' lives & choices, especially attendant care and transportation (including self-reimbursed mileage for those who own their own vehicles, capable of driving who can save taxpayers even more \$)!!!!!!!!!!!!



Assembly Representative: Hebl

Senate Representative: Miller

Hello I am Mary Peterson.

2532 County Rd N, Stoughton, WI 53589

[marrylou52@aol.com](mailto:marrylou52@aol.com)

608-873-3928

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It puts a label on people with disabilities and makes them feel bad.**

I am a parent of a youth with a disability.

It has been very stressful trying to care for our daughter. Other people think people with disabilities aren't capable of things like holding a job or living in the community.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**





Assembly Representative: Hebl

Senate Representative: Miller

Hello I am Jacob Slovacek.

890 County Road N, Stoughton, WI 53589  
[james\\_grunewald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:james_grunewald@sbcglobal.net)

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law. The R word is disrespectful and a "bully" word. People make fun of me because of the way I am. It hurts my feelings and I want everyone to be kind to each other.**

I am a person with a disability on the waiting list for services.

I need supports to work and be a part of the community. I need help to work at my job. I cannot do it alone. I also cannot stay home alone which causes my family to rearrange schedules to accommodate me.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports.



Assembly Representative: Hebl

Senate Representative: Miller

Hello I am Greg Burrill.

631 8th Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin 53589

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. It matters to me because it will make people with disabilities feel better. It made me feel bad because people were making fun of me and I did not like it at all.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services from COP/CIP Legacy Waivers.

I go to work at Fossdals and the Yahara River Coop and then come home. I like to work, spend time with family and friends, and have a life.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**



Assembly Representative: Hebl

Senate Representative: Miller

Hello I am Elroy Hitchcock.

623 Eighth St. #2, Stoughton, WI 53589

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services.

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law.**



Assembly Representative: Farrow

Senate Representative: Zipperer

Hello I am Maria Cizel.

1001 Delafield St, Waukesha, WI 53188

[cizelmaria@gmail.com](mailto:cizelmaria@gmail.com)

414-491-1586

**I think you should remove the words "Mental Retardation" from law because most people do not want to hear "retardation" even if they are a little bit different from us. They don't want to hear that word. I was called a midget and I didn't like it at all. So I imagine a person with an intellectual disability would not want to be called "retard".**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through Family Care.

I am job hunting and searching for a job. I go up to workforce development and search online. I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I really want a job. I enjoy my apartment and my independence and freedom. Well, I was having trouble before I came to Family Care and I feel they want me to be successful in whatever I do. I have assistance with daily living skills and organization. They help me with my shopping. Without these supports I would probably be stuck/ lost. Without the supports I may spend too much money. My house would be a disaster!

**I would like to ask you to Remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life.**



Assembly Representative: Knodl

Senate Representative: Darling

Hello I am Richard Jarvi.

W164n10502 Timberline Court, Germantown, WI 53022  
[Jarvirichard@yahoo.com](mailto:Jarvirichard@yahoo.com)  
262- 293-9125

**I think you should remove the words “Mental Retardation” from law. People will feel bad if other people call them that name. When I was in school everybody would call me a retard. It made me feel that I wasn't important.**

I am a person with a disability currently receiving services through Family Care.

I go to Our Place. I take classes to help me have a better life. I also own a worker co-op and I clean for ten dollars per hour. I think people should at least make minimum wage. I am getting my own apartment in two weeks. I live in a group home now. I like to spend time with friends. I like having a job and taking classes. Family Care pays for me to come to Our Place. They also pay for the people and things that help me live a regular life, so I can have a good life. I would be in an institution or stuck at home.

**I would like to ask you to remove the words mental retardation from state law and help everyone with disabilities get the supports they need to live a good life. End the R Word in Wisconsin! Remove the R-Word from Wisconsin Law!**

Remove the caps from programs like Family Care and IRIS. People need these supports. Help our state to be a good place for people with disabilities to live. Caps are for bottles, not people!  
Remove the caps on Family Care and IRIS!

People should at least make min wage. No more piece work.