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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WI BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES'
STATEMENT ON STATE BUDGET

(MADISON) – Issues affecting people with developmental disabilities, their families and allies received attention in the biennial budget passed by the Legislature and just signed into law by Governor Tony Evers, but the investments made did not go far enough.

BPDD recognizes that significant increases in the Personal Care Services rate and Family Care direct funding, which acknowledge the critical shortages in direct care providers statewide, said Beth Swedeen, Executive Director.

BPDD also appreciates the Governor's partial veto that increases the state's per-pupil aid to all students, as well as increases to Children's Long Term Supports (CLTS) and mental health services.

The budget includes only about one-sixth of the increase in special education services the Governor proposed after more than a decade of flat funding: far short of what is needed statewide to address the needs of students with disabilities and to adequately prepare them for life after high school.

BPDD also notes the removal of full BadgerCare expansion, dental Medicaid reimbursement increases, crisis intervention services, and transition services for students with disabilities from the budget.

While increases in public transit, specialized transportation, and paratransit are needed and appreciated, significant additional investments are needed to create transportation options that work for non-drivers.

BPDD will continue to work with the state's policymakers to make critical investments in the resources needed so people with developmental disabilities can be full and participating members of their communities.