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State of Wisconsin
Council on Physical Disabilities

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July 9, 2004

Helene Nelson, Secretary
WI Department of Health and Family Services
One West Wilson Street, Room 650
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Secretary Nelson:

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities supports the Department's application for a grant to study the feasibility of developing a LIFE Account savings program for Medicaid recipients.

The LIFE Account program would allow individuals to accumulate whatever savings they achieve by self-directing their care. These savings could be augmented by the person's earnings or by matched contributions from others. The account could then be utilized for the purchase of assistive technology or home modifications.

This grant would help implement two of the goals from our State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities.

- Long-Term Support Goal 2: Consumers will be self-directed in all choices about services and supports needed, with education provided regarding options available.
- Long-Term Support Goal 6: There will be statewide access to and funding for assistive technology as needed for individuals of any age.

Because this grant project would expand the options available to people with disabilities, the Council endorses it and offers its support. The Council would be willing to promote the project through its website and through the personal contacts of our members.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin
Chairperson