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## ARCW Statement on Joint Finance Committee Approval of Investment in HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment

*Unanimous support of Darling-Loudenbeck motion will protect Wisconsin's premier system of care for people with HIV disease*

ARCW Vice President for Government and Public Relations, Bill Keeton, issued the following statement following the Joint Committee on Finance's action in support of a \$300,000 new investment in the Mike Johnson Life Care and Early Intervention Services grant over the next two year:

"Over the past 30 years, Wisconsin has built the nation's premier system for ensuring HIV patients receive the health care and medications they need to live long, healthy lives. Today's motion – authored by Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Representative Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton), and requested by Representative Warren Petryk (R-Eleva) – will ensure that no matter where someone with HIV in Wisconsin lives, they will have access to a comprehensive system of care that delivers outstanding health outcomes, helps avoid unnecessary and expensive care and positions our state to continue to make strides toward realizing an AIDS-free generation.

"On behalf of the 4,000 HIV patients ARCW serves, we applaud the co-chairs of the Committee – Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Sen. Darling – and all the members of the Joint Committee on Finance for their continued, bi-partisan and unanimous support. With the number of patients with HIV growing every year, this investment comes at a pivotal time."

### *About ARCW:*

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is home to the ARCW Medical Center – Wisconsin's largest and fastest growing HIV health care system. Through its integrated medical, dental and mental health clinics along with pharmacy and dedicated social services, HIV patients across Wisconsin gain the health care and social services they need for long-term survival with HIV disease from ARCW.

ARCW is also a leading provider of innovative and aggressive prevention services to help at-risk individuals to stay free of HIV.

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