

**Department of Human Services  
Program Sustainability**

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On February 17<sup>th</sup>, the Human Services Subcommittee voted to recommend acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Human Services on program sustainability for the Aging and People with Disabilities and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities programs.

The report, required by a budget note, was in response to legislative concerns about budget growth and increases in both caseload volume and costs. To support the development of independent and unbiased options, DHS used an external consultant.

The final report, produced by the Lewin Group, was received on February 10, 2016, and identifies potential strategies for “bending the cost curve” in these programs. These primarily revolve around changing eligibility, modifying services, and increasing participant cost-share. Stakeholder input was included in the report; while they acknowledge that projected program costs are unsustainable, there are varying perspectives on how best to deal with costs.

The Subcommittee expressed frustration with the limited amount of modeling and concrete options presented in the report; Lewin and DHS indicated this was primarily due to time and data constraints. The Subcommittee will continue to press DHS for policy and program change options discrete enough to be fully vetted and priced for potential budget action in the 2017 legislative session.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.