

Walker's Policy Responsible for 700 Layoffs at Slinger Based Company

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MADISON – Slinger-based GeminiCares, Inc. announced on Thursday that they are going out of business and laying off their more than 700 employees due to Governor Walker's dramatic proposed changes to Wisconsin's long-term care system.

In a statement released Thursday, Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) said about the layoffs:

"It's ironic that after Governor Walker blamed Wisconsin's lagging jobs record on 'uncertainty' surrounding the recall elections that he would knowingly create such uncertainty with our state's long-term system that will lead to 700 people losing their jobs.

"Unfortunately this kind of news is exactly what can happen in what respected business leader John Torinus called the governor's 'government by surprise.' The governor's lack of planning and inclusiveness and failure to involve people in important public policy has had devastating consequences for the citizens of our state. Even the governor's own Health Services Secretary knew nothing about these long-term changes until the budget was introduced.

"Strong long-term care services are vital for maintaining a high quality of life for thousands of seniors and people with disabilities across Wisconsin. Democrats and even some Republicans have called for removing non-fiscal policy items from the budget, but it's especially important that we remove policy items that can have a negative impact on seniors, people with disabilities and others with fragile health conditions.

"If we don't remove these harmful long-term care provisions from the budget, we could potentially see many more devastating announcements like we saw with GeminiCares today."