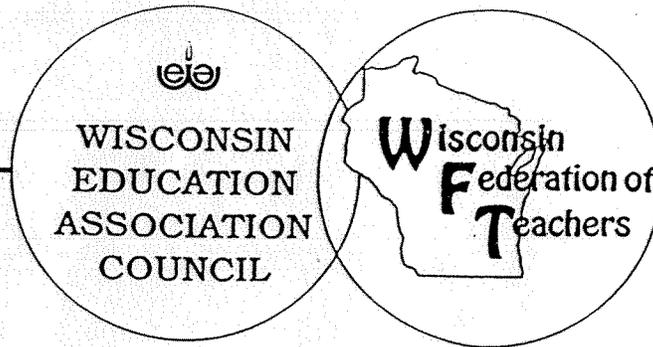


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**STATEMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
REGARDING: ASSEMBLY BILL 150 - BIENNIAL BUDGET  
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1995**

**RICHARD COLLINS  
PRESIDENT, WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CO-CHAIRS, REPRESENTATIVE BRANCEL AND SENATOR LEEAN, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR HOLDING THIS PUBLIC HEARING ON ASSEMBLY BILL 150-THE BIENNIAL BUDGET. THIS FORUM IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS COMPONENTS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 150 THAT, IF ENACTED INTO LAW, WILL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN AND ON THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO TEACHING AND NURTURING CHILDREN.

WISCONSIN'S PUBLIC EDUCATION TRADITION REACHES DEEP INTO OUR STATE'S HISTORY. WISCONSIN HAS BUILT A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR ITS PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG THE TOP STATES IN THE NATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTS AND IS NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION WHEN IT COMES TO STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN MATH AND

SCIENCE COURSES. WE MUST BE PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EMBRACE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE.

IT IS WITH GREAT CONCERN FOR THAT STRONG HISTORIC FOUNDATION THAT I SPEAK BEFORE YOU TODAY. THIS COMMITTEE, AND THIS LEGISLATURE HAVE BEFORE IT ONE BILL (AB 150) THAT WILL DIVERT RESOURCES AWAY FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS; WILL FORBID PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM RAISING THE REVENUE NECESSARY TO SUCCEED; WILL JEOPARDIZE STANDARDS IN EDUCATION AND WILL DISPARAGE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BUILT WISCONSIN'S STRONG AND VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS, THROUGH SUBCONTRACTING OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND THE STRIPPING AWAY OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS.

WE ALL AGREE THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE YOU NEED TO BE INNOVATIVE AND EXPAND BEYOND THE STATUS QUO. AS THIS IS DONE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, HOWEVER, GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN NOT TO LOWER THE OVERALL QUALITY AND STANDARDS THAT ENSURE THE LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE WE HAVE IN WISCONSIN. THAT IS WHY THE WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND THE WISCONSIN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS SEEK CHANGES TO ASSEMBLY BILL 150.

MANY EDUCATION INITIATIVES OFFERED IN ASSEMBLY BILL 150 ARE NON-FISCAL IN NATURE AND WOULD CAUSE DRASTIC CHANGES TO PUBLIC EDUCATION. THESE INITIATIVES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER IN A SINGLE BILL. THEY SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AS SEPARATE PIECES OF

LEGISLATION. ONCE THIS IS DONE THEY WILL RECEIVE FULL SCRUTINY AND FAIR PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE PROPER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES. THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE HAS DEMONSTRATED AN AWARENESS OF THIS NEED BY RECENTLY REMOVING A TOTAL OF 89 ITEMS FROM ASSEMBLY BILL 150. THIS INCLUDED A FEW ITEMS THAT RELATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND WE APPLAUD THOSE EFFORTS. WE NOW URGE THE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THIS PROCEDURE.

SEVERAL NON-FISCAL PUBLIC EDUCATION POLICY ITEMS REMAIN IN ASSEMBLY BILL 150. EXAMPLES OF KEY ITEMS REMAINING IN THE BILL RELATE TO: ALLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CONTRACT WITH ANY PERSON OUTSIDE OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES; REPEALING STANDARDS IN EDUCATION SUCH AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO HAVE READING SPECIALISTS; AND MAKING NUMEROUS CHANGES TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAWS BY ESTABLISHING PROHIBITED SUBJECTS OF BARGAINING, PARTICULARLY AROUND THE CONVERSION AND STAFFING OF CHARTER SCHOOLS. EACH OF THESE INITIATIVES SHOULD BE DRAFTED INTO SEPARATE BILLS AND REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE STANDING COMMITTEES.

THE BUDGET BILL'S FISCAL POLICY RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IS ALARMING AT BEST. THE BILL PROPOSES TO STRIP RESOURCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SEND THOSE RESOURCES TO PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS. IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE TO DIVERT TAX MONEY TO PRIVATE

AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS WHEN THE STATE IS STRUGGLING TO ADEQUATELY FINANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AGREES WITH RECENT NEWS EDITORIALS STATING THAT PUBLIC MONEY FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IS A BAD IDEA AT ANY TIME. IT'S DOUBLY BAD WHEN THE STATE IS IMPOSING STRICT LIMITS ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SEARCHING FOR \$1 BILLION A YEAR TO REDUCE SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES. OTHER EDITORIALS COMMENT ABOUT THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE ISSUE OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. OUR FOCUS MUST BE TOWARD ENHANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES NOT STEERING OUR SYSTEM INTO COSTLY EXPERIMENTS THAT CHALLENGE THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR CONSTITUTION.

THE WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL PARTICIPATED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION'S URBAN INITIATIVE TASK FORCE. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF MOVING BEYOND THE STATUS QUO TO ENHANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY. THE URBAN INITIATIVE PRESENTS ALTERNATIVES THAT ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL SO THEY CAN BE GOOD CITIZENS, GOOD FAMILY MEMBERS AND PRODUCTIVE WORKERS. THE URBAN INITIATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS MAKE UP A PACKAGE WITH A SINGLE PURPOSE; TO GUARANTEE ALL WISCONSIN CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOR HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF INNOVATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION IS THE VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP. THIS INITIATIVE IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO

SUPPORT A DRAMATIC RESTRUCTURING OF WISCONSIN'S SCHOOLS. IT BRINGS TOGETHER THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION GROUPS IN A PROCESS THAT FOCUSES ON CREATING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AS THEY PREPARE FOR THEIR FUTURE.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT PRIVATE CORPORATIONS OR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS DO A BETTER JOB OF TEACHING OUR CHILDREN THAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHEN COMPARED ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. ASSEMBLY BILL 150 WILL ELIMINATE A PLAYING FIELD ALL TOGETHER AND PUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT A STRIKING DISADVANTAGE. THE BILL NOT ONLY MAKES THE STATE IMPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUE CONTROLS PERMANENT, BUT DRASTICALLY CHANGES THE WAY THEY ARE CALCULATED.

FREEZING THE ALLOWABLE ANNUAL INCREASE IN REVENUE PER PUPIL AT \$194 AND ELIMINATING THE OPTION OF CALCULATING THE ALLOWABLE INCREASE ACCORDING TO THE INFLATION RATE IGNORES THE FACT THAT MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE EXPERIENCING COSTS BEYOND THE RATE OF INFLATION. MANY OF THESE COSTS RELATE TO BADLY NEEDED BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS. THIS SITUATION IS ALSO COMPOUNDED BY PLACING THE FORMULA DRIVEN CATEGORICAL AIDS WITHIN THE REVENUE CONTROLS. MOST NOTABLE ARE THE CATEGORICAL AIDS THAT ASSIST DISTRICTS WITH COSTS RELATED TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH HANDICAPPING CONDITIONS OR OTHER EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. THE VERSION OF REVENUE CONTROLS OFFERED IN ASSEMBLY BILL 150 IS

MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE REQUIRED SERVICES TO THE MOST NEEDY OF STUDENTS. THIS WILL ONLY RESULT IN THE CANIBALIZATION OF OTHER SERVICES AND PUT REGULAR EDUCATION PROGRAMS, STAFF RESOUCES AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE HAVE A MAMMOTH TASK AHEAD. THAT TASK IS TO TRY TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN SATISFYING COMMITMENTS TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR TAXPAYERS WHILE PRESERVING ALL THAT MAKES WISCONSIN A GREAT STATE TO LIVE AND RAISE CHILDREN IN . BALANCING THE CONCERNS OF TAXPAYERS AGAINST THE NEEDS OF WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HOWEVER, IS POLICY THAT MUST BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. THE WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL LOOKS FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD. WE WILL WORK WITH THIS COMMITTEE, THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THIS STATE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE.

# Education Notes

## Appointed new education officer for Army Guard

Appointed the new Wisconsin Army National Guard Officer mailing

Affairs  
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1-800-292-9464.  
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tion to you and to the college of your choice. This program can save you money and time.

The following list of financial assistance benefits are available to many Wisconsin Army National Guard commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers. **Take advantage of these benefits because they may not be available forever.**

### Montgomery GI Bill:

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) is an outstanding program, which can assist you in paying for your college expenses. Many soldiers in the Wisconsin Army National Guard are not taking advantage of this program and should. **You can earn up to \$192.32 per month for 36 months while attending college.** This program applies to commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted service members in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. You can use this program toward multiple undergraduate or graduate degrees. **Point of contact is SSG Natalie Rhodes in the Education Office, (608) 242-3448.** To determine if you are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill see the flow chart below.

### Tuition Grant Program:

In addition to Montgomery GI Bill you may be eligible for the Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant Program. If you are a satisfactory participant and are a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted you may use this program in conjunction with the MGIB. You can earn up to \$603.75 carrying a college load of 12-18 credits. If your college load is 1-11 credits you can receive \$50.37 per credit. This program can be used on any level of education from associate to doctorate degrees. **Point of contact is Linda McDermott, (608) 242-3157.**

### Army Continuing Education Program (ACES):

This program applies to AGR officers and enlisted. You cannot use this program in conjunction

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Legislative Liaison

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
714 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53715

office: (608) 263-3456  
home: (608) [REDACTED]

255-1710

## National Guard education benefits Example of benefits

### M-DAY SOLDIERS

(Commissioned, warrant, enlisted)

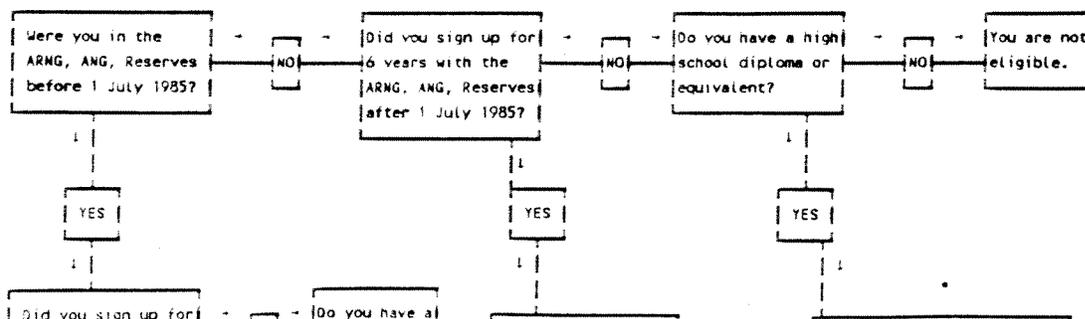
|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| College tuition cost:                            | \$16,000.00 |
| <i>(4 year, full-time baccalaureate program)</i> |             |
| Montgomery GI Bill pays total of:                | \$6,923.52  |
| WI National Guard Tuition Grant pays:            | \$4,830.00  |
| Your cost for the baccalaureate degree:          | \$4,246.48  |

### AGE SOLDIERS

(Commissioned, warrant, enlisted)

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| College tuition cost:                           | \$16,000.00 |
| <i>(4 year, evening, baccalaureate program)</i> |             |
| Army Continuing Educ. System (ACES):            | \$3060.00   |
| <i>(Limited to 9 sem. hours/fiscal year)</i>    |             |
| WI National Guard Tuition Grant pays:           | \$4,830.00  |
| Your cost for the baccalaureate degree:         | \$5,110.00  |

**Note: AGR's may be eligible to use Ch. 106 Montgomery GI Bill benefits for classes not covered by ACES.**



Remarks to the Joint Committee on Finance

Professor James S. Donnelly, Jr.  
Co-Chair, University Committee  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

March 27, 1995

Co-Chairs LEEAN and BRANCEL and  
Members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

Last week President Lyall and Regent President Grebe testified before you about the multiple negative effects of the Governor's proposed budget on the UW System as a whole. I wish to speak to you briefly about the pain and harm that it will cause at the UW-Madison. This is the worst budget for the Madison campus since I became a faculty member in the History Department almost twenty-five years ago. Of the \$47 million in total GPR cuts for the UW System in the 1995-97 biennium, we estimate that about \$20 million will be assigned to UW-Madison if there are no changes by the Legislature. For Madison that means a cut of 4% in its current GPR revenue, which, after inflation of 3 to 4% a year, will become a reduction of 10 to 12% in real terms by the start of the 1997-99 biennium. At Madison, we have today, again in real terms, for our academic programs 15% less than we had four years ago. These figures are of course depressing enough, but what adds to our sense of gloom is the somber report of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau that the state will start the 1997-99 biennium with an anticipated revenue gap of as much as \$650 million, and this assumes — perhaps a risky assumption — that there will be no weakening in current brisk revenue growth.

The Legislature wants the faculty to devote more attention to undergraduate education, and in many ways we are doing just that at Madison. But the balance between teaching and research cannot be shifted in favor of teaching if we are continuously losing state GPR funding. Madison's research budget — the great bulk of it from non-state sources — has grown at an average rate of 8% a year for the last six years, whereas in real terms, as I've said, state funding for academic programs is today at least 15% lower than it was four years ago. Our faculty are ready to do more to shift the balance in favor of teaching, but this goal cannot realistically

be achieved unless the state does something meaningful to halt the continuing "privatization" of the UW-Madison.

If growing privatization is one of our biggest problems, the others are the loss of management flexibility and a greatly increased threat of administrative centralization. The political philosophy of the "New Federalism," of block grants and the large-scale elimination of burdensome federal mandates, joined to the insistence of business experts on the need to decentralize management and decision-making, ought to spell greater flexibility for the university. But instead, with the exception of the UW Hospital and Clinics, what we see in this budget is proposal after proposal for centralization by the Department of Administration, and a grossly excessive targeting of cuts by the Governor that is strikingly inconsistent with modern management techniques.

Let me quickly give you just two examples. The first is planning and construction, where we are faced at Madison with the immediate loss of 27 positions and the possible loss of the remaining 7, even though DOA personnel now have no responsibility — or virtually none — for the 350-odd projects costing less than \$250,000 that are currently carried out yearly on the Madison campus. In our considered judgement DOA's claims about duplication of function and putative savings from the elimination of positions are grossly exaggerated. If this issue were taken out of the budget and given the close scrutiny that its complexity deserves, perhaps we could resolve the question of comparative costs. But we have other reasons for objecting to what the Governor proposes here: not only does the UW lose \$5.5 million in this category in 1995-97, but forever after, DOA would have the right to "chargeback" to the UW the full cost of whatever planning and construction services it provides. With the funding already gone, the chargebacks become a big additional budget cut that is now hidden from public view.

Lastly, just a few words about the proposed mandate for transferring \$515,000 a year to the State Historical Society. As an historian, I am not likely to undervalue the importance of this wonderfully rich resource to faculty and students. But the estimated value of the funds and services that

the university is already transferring every year to the State Historical Society is as much as \$660,000, which is equivalent to more than 40 percent of the current library budget of the SHS. With the proposed addition, the UW would become responsible for nearly 60 percent of the total SHS library budget. It may well be that the SHS library needs increased funding from the state. But if so, why is the SHS's GPR funding in this budget to be cut by well over \$200,000, with that sum and another \$300,000 to be supplied by the university? Is the SHS, a separate state agency, with a total budget of \$15.8 million and much program revenue, to become a permanent ward of the university? And there is not a word in the budget bill which would require the SHS to spend the \$515,000 of additional university support on library acquisitions in North American history. There is no provision for accountability. Altogether, this is an extremely ill-advised gubernatorial proposal, which threatens to embitter UW-SHS relations and which the Legislature ought seriously to rethink.

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UW-Stout

**Testimony to Joint Finance Committee  
of  
James I. Byrd, President  
The Association of University of Wisconsin Professionals  
March 27, 1995**

Education in Wisconsin should be viewed and financed as a lifetime learning experience. Sufficient support should be present at all levels to ensure that students are well served and that they are adequately prepared for the future. Our education system should be a seamless enterprise which benefits both the individual and the state. The economy of our state and its viability as a democratic political entity depends to a large extent upon the investment we make to an educated citizenry.

The University of Wisconsin System is one of the great assets of Wisconsin. Its greatness is based on providing access for all citizens of Wisconsin to the highest quality education. The quality of our system and the ability of its graduates to meet the needs of business, industry, and government are catalogued in survey after survey and in anecdotal accounts of our leading citizens. The quality and commitment of faculty, academic staff and administrators, both individually and collectively, have kept the University a national and global leader in scholarship and educational innovation and reform. The legislative and executive branches of state government have demonstrated their commitment by ensuring that adequate funding was provided to permit a high level of access to the University and to enable the UW to improve quality.

We are now faced with a situation where quality and access have become competing goals rather than complementing principles. This is a competition in which both quality and access suffer. In an increasingly unfavorable environment the UW has adapted to maintain quality and minimize the number of qualified Wisconsin citizens who have been denied access to one of our universities. But, a breaking point has been reached. If further reductions in GPR must be accepted, the result will be damage to healthy programs and endangerment of its mission.

I would like to focus my remarks on the consequences of GPR cuts on the university cluster institutions and the UW center system. These parts of the UW system are more dependent on GPR funding and, quite candidly, will be unable to replace GPR losses with grants and gifts.

Continued rises in tuition above the rate of inflation disproportionately affect the students which are served by the comprehensives and center

(over)

schools. While tuition at UW-Madison may still be a bargain among Big Ten schools, that is not the case at the comprehensives. Tuition is at or above the median of peer institutions.

Students on these campuses are more likely to come from middle-income or lower middle-income families. Offsetting GPR reductions with tuition increases and surcharges will deny the opportunity for a university education to a growing number of otherwise qualified citizens.

If I may expand on the access issue, the affordability of a university education for the population that the comprehensives and center system serves is often a question of "if" not "which". Higher tuition, less financial aid, higher student loan debt, and fewer student jobs all have a cumulative effect of denying educational opportunities to Wisconsin taxpayers and their families. This budget has failed to increase student aid levels to match tuition increases and allows the Minority Student Tuition Award Program to sunset. I respectfully request that this committee restore that provision and renew the Minority Student Tuition Award Program.

In complying with fiscal reductions, the UW has no choice other than to limit access and to cut back on vital programs. The result will be a serious endangerment of each unit's mission. For the comprehensives and especially the center system, at the core of that mission is serving those students who do not graduate at or near the top of their high school class or who are nontraditional students. Enrollment management policies driven by fiscal restraints increasingly denies admission to qualified citizens. Academic support services, such as, counseling and advising are important components to promoting educational success for all students. More cuts in these areas will adversely affect the quality of our students' education. Likewise, elimination of educational programs reduces career choices for students and fails to recognize the regional responsibility that each university and center has. Reducing career choices negatively impacts on career opportunities.

I believe the current crisis is particularly threatening to the comprehensives and center system largely because of the relatively small size of each institution. Cuts of one or two positions in a service or a program is quite often not a reduction but an elimination of that service or program. I respectfully disagree with the request of Board of Regents President Grebe and UW System President Lyall to eliminate the specified cuts in the Governor's proposed budget. The comprehensives and centers have provided most of the improvement in administrative efficiencies in recent years. The unspecified cuts in the budget already threaten the vitality and viability of these institutions. Shifting the specified cuts to the comprehensives and centers will exacerbate the situation.

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance**

**FROM: Earl Muhlbauer, Executive Director**

**DATE: March 27, 1995**

**RE: Request for Consideration to Modify Governor's 1995-97 State Budget Proposal (Assembly Bill 150)**

=====

The members of the Wisconsin Technical College district boards would ask the Joint Committee on Finance to review four areas in Assembly Bill 150 and consider for modification.

1. **Technical College Minority Student Grant Program HEAB budget, AB-150, Sections 1938, 1939, and 9427(2)**  
The budget proposes to phase out the Technical College Minority Student Grant Program which provided \$270,000 in grants to 243 students in 1994-95.

It seems inconceivable the safety net for minority students is being eliminated at the same time the same program in private colleges is continued and the UW academic excellence scholarships are being expanded by \$443,100.

**Request: Maintain the Technical College Minority Student Grant Program.**

2. **Proposal to Modify Wisconsin Technical College District Board Structure**  
The budget proposes to increase board size from 9 to 11 by adding a CESA Board of Control member and a School-to-Work program employee. The Governor recommends making the CESA boundaries coterminous with the Technical College district boundaries. The District Boards Association believes this action will strengthen K-12/Technical College cooperation that already exists from the involvement of public school administrators and elected school board members on Technical College boards.

Wisconsin Technical College board members support the concept of enhanced cooperation with CESAs, but do not believe that Technical College board enlargement is necessary to attain that cooperation. The Legislature should take caution not to overbalance district boards with public sector representatives at the expense of business and industry representatives. Wisconsin Technical College board members recommend the following as it relates to Technical College board structure change proposed by the Governor.

1. Maintain the current statutory requirements that boards be representative of their communities including large and small business representatives, employees, and a public school superintendent
2. Maintain the size of Technical College boards at the current membership of nine
3. Legislature delete the proposed addition of a school district or CESA employee who represents a School-to-Work program
4. Add the CESA Board of Control member as a class of elected official under Chapter 38.08, Elected Official Category
5. Modify Chapter 38.08 to specify that district boards shall include a public school administrator or a CESA administrator from the CESA within the district
6. Maintain a single appointment process
  - a. Delete the proposal to have the CESA board appoint the CESA representative
  - b. Add to AB-150 the requirement that the CESA representative, if selected as the elected official or public school administrator, be appointed by the current statutorily prescribed process

**3. Wisconsin Technical College Board**

The budget proposes the State Agency reduce its budget and prescriptively outlines that one economist position, four administrative officer positions, and others be eliminated.

The State Agency is an integral part of the Technical College System. The positions identified are critical policy positions in maintaining the System's competitive edge in meeting the future needs of citizens, business and industry and the ability to monitor federal legislation effecting manpower training as well as garner federal funds to meet training needs.

**Request: Provide the Technical College Board and State Director Dwight York with the flexibility to make budget reductions within the context of System priorities. Remove the prescriptiveness.**

**4. Wisconsin Technical College General Aid Appropriation**

The Wisconsin Technical Colleges are funded primarily from three sources, General State Aids, Tuition and Fees, and Property Taxes. The preliminary estimates indicate the cost to continue program operations in 1995-96 will be 4.5%. State General Aids account for approximately 28% of district operating cost, therefore, a level appropriation is really a reduction in the State Aid component.

**Request: Consider the Technical Colleges as a highest priority for funding consideration in the budget review and evaluation process.**

EM:tjm

# Madison Metropolitan School District

MICHAEL MAHAFFEY, Principal

GOMPERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



1502 WYOMING WAY  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53704-1800  
TELEPHONE: (608) 246-5000

March 27, 1995

To Those Considering the Importance of the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC),

When I started as an elementary school library media specialist in the Wisconsin Rapids district, I so appreciated being able to drive about thirty miles to the Marshfield U. W. campus for the CCBC's ETN (U. W.-- Extension) update classes on award-winning books for children and young adults and on titles considered to be outstanding in the areas of Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. Having sometimes been disappointed in books that I'd ordered because they were well-reviewed in journals, I valued the opinions of such a competent staff as the CCBC's. Their observations have been helpful to pass along to students, teachers and parents. Even though I live in Madison now, I continue to find the CCBC's ETN classes to be so valuable for continually learning more about children's books and the issues that surround them.

While living in central Wisconsin, I also appreciated the CCBC staff's coming to our area's conferences. Our school district considered it worthwhile to give us a day in the Fall and Spring to drive to Madison so that we could see books at the CCBC before ordering them. Since award committees can only bring a few titles to our attention, CCBC Choices has been an indispensable booklet for singling out quality titles in areas studied and utilized in schools.

Through outstanding conferences, ETN classes and bibliographies, the CCBC has helped us understand cultural authenticity. The resulting selection of new multicultural resources and evaluation of those already in our library media center are both achieved far more effectively thanks to the CCBC's expertise.

Please consider carefully and support the CCBC's vital role in books that make meaningful contributions to the lives of Wisconsin's children.

Sincerely,

Jane Lindsay, Library Media Specialist  
Gompers Elementary School Library Media Center

*Success for All*

509 Hillington Way  
Madison, WI 53705  
19 March 1995

Sen. Joseph LEEAN  
Co-Chair, Joint Finance Committee  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator LEEAN:

As a K-5 librarian in the Madison Metropolitan School District, I am writing to ask you to continue to support the funding of the Cooperative Children's Book Center. The Center is one of only a few similar libraries in the United States, which are repositories for virtually all of the new children's books which are published each year. Thus, the citizens of Wisconsin have a unique resource at their disposal, be they parents, teachers, librarians, writers, or simply devotees of children's literature.

The small staff of the Center is very active touring the state promoting children's literature. I have seen teachers' awareness about children's literature increase as a result of the talks they give at local meetings and state conferences.

I am very concerned about all of Gov. Thompson's proposed cuts in funding for education, including those which affect the DPI, funding private schools, etc., but it is really shocking to me to think that we could lose an asset like the CCBC, which people all over the Midwest, and even the rest of the country, treasure as a wonderful and unusual resource. Please don't cut the CCBC, another reason why Wisconsin stands out as an enlightened state.

Sincerely,



Kristin S. Daugherty

cc: Sen. Fred Risser

**TESTIMONY**  
by  
**Vibeke Lehmann**  
**Library Consultant**  
**Member, Wisconsin Library Association**

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE Hearing on Executive Budget Bill, AB 150.  
March 27, 1995.

This written testimony is submitted in support of adequate funding for statewide library services in Wisconsin. AB 150 proposes dramatic cuts in state level services which, if enacted, will have a very direct negative impact on citizens statewide.

As a member of the Wisconsin Library Association I would like to express the organization's professional concern about the need to preserve and maintain the effective, efficient, and highly used statewide library programs already in place. In particular, I wish to point out the importance of restoring the cuts in funding for DPI's Division for Libraries and Community Learning and the contracts with statewide library service providers, and increasing public library systems aids with at least the amount equal to the inflationary factor. These three areas are top priorities of the Wisconsin Library Association.

**The Division for Libraries and Community Learning (DLCL).**

DLCL, and the entire DPI for that matter, have been targeted for a disproportionate number of position and operating cuts. DLCL is a small division (60 FTE: 31 GPR, 21 federal, 8 program revenue), but its staff provide valuable and unique services to librarians and libraries statewide. The division is a model for high quality, one-stop shopping, which is exactly the type of customer driven service which the SAVE Commission Report recommends in its goal #15 (p. 42-43).

The expert consultant services provided in the areas of planning, library and media technology, building construction, and services to users with special needs are extremely valuable to local libraries, which would not be able to pay expensive private consultants for comparable services. DLCL's Reference & Loan Library is the ultimate support agency for local libraries in the areas of materials and information referral. It also administers WISCAT, the state bibliographic database, an invaluable management tool on which most Wisconsin libraries rely for timely interlibrary loan service and resource sharing. These programs and services are in jeopardy under the proposed budget cuts. I urge you to restore the following DLCL positions (budget items on pages 471 and 472, at a total of \$320,300):

- 11 1.0 FTE management information specialist.
- 13. 1.0 FTE library services assistant.
- 16. 0.4 FTE library consultant in FY96 and 1.0 library consultant in FY97.
- 17. 1.0 FTE administrative officer in FY97.

DLCL is also targeted for an additional \$1,500,000 unspecified cuts, which would eliminate many more positions, if the budget is enacted as is. The library community has good reason to be concerned about the future of the state's central library agency.

### Statewide Service Contracts.

DLCL's supplies and services budget currently pays for contract with four service providers: Milwaukee Public Library (MPL), Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service (WILS), the Milwaukee Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and the Children's Cooperative Book Center (CCBC). These contracts provide for interlibrary loan and information services to all state residents regardless of location. They make available to all requestors the vast and often unique collections of the state's largest public library and the enormous resources of academic and research libraries in Wisconsin and other states. The Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is often the only venue for many of our disabled citizens to obtain library and information materials in the format they can use. Likewise, cuts in the CCBC's budget would mean that this highly regarded and nationally renowned children's literature research center would have to curtail or eliminate many of its outreach and education programs. At present the CCBC's services and resources are available at no costs to all citizens.

In order to just maintain current services under the four statewide contracts, an adjustment of \$128,088 is needed over the executive budget request -- a very small amount relative to its impact statewide.

### Public Library System Aids.

Wisconsin Statutes mandate funding to public library systems on a formula basis. System aids benefit local libraries directly, enabling them to participate in efficient delivery systems, joint automation and technology projects, staff training, publicity efforts, and outreach services. A fine example of system services is the new South Central Library System (SCLS) LINK CAT, which provides instant access to the holdings of libraries in Columbia, Dane, Green, and Sauk counties, as well as several other libraries outside SCLS. Citizens also have dial-up access from their homes. The seventeen public library systems in the state enable small local libraries to be part of a larger cooperative entity so that they can provide their users with materials, programs, and services they would never be able to afford with local funding.

While system aids were not cut in the executive budget, they have never been funded at the level originally promised. At this time we are asking only to maintain current services which will, however, require \$717,457 above the 11,722,000 contained in AB 150, making total funding only 14 cents per resident.

I join my professional colleagues in a strong plea for adequate funding of Wisconsin libraries -- they are one of the most cost effective and widely used public agencies in the nation.

**Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing  
AB510--Libraries**

To: Co-chairs: Senator Lekan and Representative Brancel,  
and Joint Finance Committee Members. (in Senator Chvala's district);

From: Joan Weckmueller

(Dane County Board -- Chair Information Resource Management Committee;  
Chair of Executive Board for Dane County Community Network Steering  
Committee (WIZIP); South Central Library Board; former Dane County Library  
Board member; and past Deerfield Library Board President)

514 Center St., Deerfield, WI 53531 (261-6619/764-8219 )

- 
- 1) *Appreciate that public library system aids were left intact.* This money directly supports local library systems. It is cost effective since it avoids state bureaucracy.
  - 2) *Request reconsideration of the FTE positions in the Division of Libraries and Community Learning.* (1.0 - management information specialist, 1.0 - library services assistant, .1.4 - library consultants, and 1.0 - administrative officer position in the Bureau of Resource Sharing; total cost: \$320,000).

I am particularly concerned over the impact on interlibrary loans. Books, magazines, and other library materials continue to rise, while many libraries are forced to cut in this area to meet their budgets. The ability to share our limited resources across the state is critical. Someone at the Plum Lake Library in Sayner (Vilas County) should be able to continue to check out a book through interlibrary loan from the Deerfield Library (Dane County).

It is important to continue to improve computer access at all libraries. As efforts are made to make the information superhighway, WIZIP, a reality. It is necessary to have staff familiar both with technology and with projects around the state. The Dane County Community Network Steering Committee is looking at local libraries and extended hours at schools as one way to get access to people in the rural communities as well as cities.

- 3) *Support continuation of statewide contracts.* For example, WILS, the State Historical Library and the Milwaukee Public Library provide unique collections to residents statewide. It would be unreasonable to expect that these resources could be replicated by local libraries.

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Copied to: Assembly Speaker Prosser

Representatives: Silbaugh, Hahn, Ward, Skinrud, and Handrick.

**Testimony on Behalf of the South Central Library System  
Presented to the Joint Finance Committee on March 27, 1995**

My name is Peter Hamon. I am the Director of the South Central Library System, serving the more than 300 libraries and 500,000 residents of Columbia, Dane, Green, and Sauk Counties.

I wish to begin by thanking the Governor for recommending that system aids not be reduced for the next biennium. In a time when almost every program is being cut, this exemption is deeply appreciated.

Certain reductions recommended for the general Department of Public Instruction budget, however, will adversely affect system funding in ways which may have been overlooked when the budget was created.

In particular, funding for Wisconsin's state level library resource sharing contracts is not adequate now, and will almost certainly be phased out entirely as DPI reduces its general operations to levels called for in the budget. Additionally, DPI staffing cuts will eliminate the consulting help libraries depend upon in many areas including library construction, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, library law, library finance, effective use of new technologies, and compliance with legislative mandates concerning the operation of public library systems.

Many of these costs must necessarily be assumed by public library systems, since the people we represent depend upon these services. The proportionate cost of cutting state level contracts, the loss of purchasing power due to inflation, and reductions to state level library staff represent an effective cut of 13.1% in the state aids received by the South Central System in the first year of the biennium, and a cut of 16.3% in the second.

In addition, the state must maintain most of its current level of GPR library expenditure in order to continue to receive more than two million dollars annually in federal library funding. These dollars fund many vital services among which is our shared statewide catalog of library materials. If we lose this federal funding, the impact on South Central to continue these services would be an additional \$200,000 per year, thus increasing the total effective reduction in our budget to over 31% in the first year of the biennium and over 34% in the second.

In answer to these problems, I request that you consider funding library services at the cost to continue level shown on the table below.

| Library Service                               | Cost Today   | AB150 Recommendation                     | Cost to Continue at Current levels       |
|---|--------------|--|--|
| Statewide Service Contracts                   | \$865,100    | FY96: \$865,100<br>FY97: \$865,100       | FY96: \$964,183<br>FY97: \$983,108       |
| Public Library System Aids                    | \$11,772,000 | FY96: \$11,772,000<br>FY97: \$11,772,000 | FY96: \$12,125,881<br>FY97: \$12,489,657 |
| Division for Libraries and Community Learning | \$2,014,800  | FY96: \$1,668,400<br>FY97: \$1,376,800   | FY96: \$2,075,244<br>FY97: \$2,137,501   |

It would not be responsible to ask for these increases without suggesting how they can be funded. The problem of inadequate revenue obviously reaches far beyond the needs of the library community, and I believe that the solution to this problem must also be general in nature. I suggest first that the shift of school aids from property taxes to general purpose revenues be phased in over several years. If this solution is not adequate, I suggest that instead of simply eliminating the property tax revenues, that these sums instead be replaced with revenues from a fairer tax base, such as the sales or the income tax.

I appreciate your continuing efforts and wish to thank you for your attention and consideration.

**Testimony on the State Budget Proposal--Library Impact**  
Mike Cross, Director of the Arrowhead Library System (ALS).

Libraries are a small part of the state budget, but Wisconsin's libraries serve a majority of the state population, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens. The books, information and other materials provided by libraries enhance literacy, increase productivity and strengthen democracy. The entire state benefits when quality library service is available in each community.

As noted in the SAVE Commission Report, lifelong learning is essential for everyone, and is ultimately essential for the state's economic well-being, especially in these times of rapid economic change. The SAVE Commission Report stated that the library service function of the state should presumably be expanded to meet the growing knowledge economy needs of Wisconsin.

Libraries are appreciative that the Governor's proposed budget does not reduce library system aids. However, proposed cuts in the state level provider contracts would shift substantial costs to library systems and local libraries across the state.

The unspecified cuts in the DPI budget may threaten production of WISCAT, a statewide CD-ROM catalog of library materials used by over 800 public, school and academic libraries. Loss of WISCAT would make interlibrary sharing of books and other materials less comprehensive, slower, and more expensive.

The Governor's proposed personnel cuts in the Division for Libraries and Community Learning would reduce the state's expertise and leadership in bringing quality library service to all communities in Wisconsin, and in bringing the information superhighway to local libraries--allowing for convenient and professionally assisted access to a world of information, right from each Wisconsin community's library. For each Wisconsin library to individually hire this type of expertise would be inefficient, cost-prohibitive, and would result in less statewide coordination and cooperation in the use of new information technologies.

Wisconsin's librarians and library users are urging adequate continued state support for library service in all Wisconsin communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Arrowhead Library System, 210 Dodge Street, Janesville, WI 53545



Middleton Public Library • 7425 Hubbard Avenue • Middleton, WI 53562  
Paul Nelson, Director • 608/831-5564

**TESTIMONY: JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

Madison, March 27, 1995

My name is Paul Nelson, and I am the director of the Middleton Public Library. I also serve, in a volunteer capacity, as legislative advocate for the Wisconsin Library Association.

First of all, let me say that the library community and its supporters are grateful that public library system aids were left intact in the 1995-97 budget, since this item is our highest legislative priority.

The Wisconsin Library Association's legislative agenda is a fairly straightforward one this year: restore the cuts to the Division for Libraries and Community Learning, increase public library system aids, and restore the cuts to the statewide contracts for library services. The members of the Wisconsin Library Association see these three items as a package of existing services.

For this reason, it is the goal of the Wisconsin Library Association to preserve and maintain the existing program of statewide library services. It encompasses the programs and services offered by the Division for Libraries and Community Learning, public library system aids, and the statewide contracts for library services, which include the Milwaukee Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Interloan Services, Milwaukee Public Library interloan, and the Children's Cooperative Book Center. This existing package of highly-used, highly-valued, and unique services is best administered at the state level. To attempt to replicate it at the system or local level would be both expensive and inefficient.

Obviously, there is a "cost to continue", and these costs are enumerated in the table that is attached to this testimony, (*Maintaining Wisconsin's Commitment to the Library Funding Partnership.*)

The Division for Libraries and Community Learning is a very small agency -- only 31 GPR-funded positions. It is an agency that, in my 18 years as a librarian in Wisconsin, has been very responsive to the concerns and needs of its customers. I have regularly used and the libraries I have worked for have greatly benefitted from its services and its consultants' expertise, especially in the areas of buildings, technology, and outreach services.

Library systems have provided numerous benefits to your constituents in the areas of resource sharing (the what's-mine-is-yours philosophy), access to information, and technology. System aids are funds that go directly to each of your districts, funds that provide your constituents with tangible benefits. Many public library systems are attempting to do more in the area of providing information in electronic formats. In the South Central Library System, for example, a consortium of 22 public libraries are developing plans to offer a package of services through the Internet. An increase in public library system aids would allow us to move toward this goal more quickly.

As for the contracts, I know that others will be supplying more specific testimony on this part of the library package. These statewide contracts provide library services to your constituents with special needs (the visually impaired, the hearing impaired) and access for everyone to specialized collections in our university libraries and our state's largest public library.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to provide further information if requested.

## MAINTAINING WISCONSIN'S COMMITMENT TO THE LIBRARY FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

### ACTION

| Services                                       | Today                | Need<br>FY96/97          | AB150<br>FY96/97         | Cost to<br>maintain<br>FY96/97 | Change to<br>budget<br>FY96/97 | Full funding<br>FY96/97  | Change to<br>Budget<br>FY96/97 |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Statewide service<br>contracts                 | 865,100<br>(-71,000) | 991,599/<br>1,041,574    | 865,100/<br>865,100      | 964,183/<br>993,108            | 99,083<br>128,088              | 991,599<br>1,041,574     | 126,499<br>176,474             |
| Public library<br>system aids                  | 11,772,200           | 12,148,900<br>12,574,100 | 11,772,200<br>11,772,200 | 12,125,881<br>12,489,657       | 353,681<br>717,457             | 12,478,532<br>13,227,243 | 706,332<br>1,455,043           |
| Division for Libraries<br>& Community Learning | 2,014,800            | 2,075,244<br>2,137,501   | 1,668,400<br>1,376,800   | 2,075,244<br>2,137,501         | 406,844<br>1,116,305           | 2,075,244<br>2,137,501   | 406,844<br>1,168,305           |

How to read the table:

Today = money in the current budget for public library system aids.

Need = money required to fully fund the service in each year of the biennium; reflects DPI budget recommendation, which included 3.2% FY96 and 3.5% FY97 increases in system funding.

AB150 = appropriation in the 95-97 budget bill for each year of the biennium.

Cost to maintain = money needed to keep the service intact throughout the biennium (includes a 3% cost of living increase). This is, in essence, our effort at a compromise position.

Change to budget = money needed to keep service intact, including 3% cost of living increase.  
Subtract AB150 from cost to maintain.

Full funding = money need to achieve the goals of the WLA legislative agenda, 6% increase for system aids and contracts.

Change to budget = Subtract AB150 from adjustment.

In other words, the cost to main services (i.e., to implement the budget proposal originally submitted by DPI) would cost \$859,608 in the first year of the biennium and \$1,961,850 in the second year of the biennium, more than half of this amount the result of draconian cuts in DPI.

# SUPPORT LIBRARY SERVICES INCLUDING THE CCBC

March 27, 1995

Members of the Joint Finance Committee  
Wisconsin State Legislature

Dear Legislators:

As educators in the public schools of Wisconsin since 1963, we come to you today to support library services in the Department of Public Instruction/Division of Library and Community Learning's (DPI/DLCL) budget.

We come to you today urging you to continue the fine support which **OUR LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE** receive from many aspects of DPI/DLCL within the DPI budget. These services have supported the development of all types of library services, including school library media services and technology in schools. In Line 18 of the DPI budget several essential services are covered by contracts: the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service, the Reference and Loan Library, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and a special library, the Cooperative Children's Book Center. **EACH** of these contracted services saves money as well as provides services for the citizens of the state. To decentralize any one of them would make no sense.

We come to you today with particular focus on urging full and increased funding for a small but highly significant item in the DPI/DLCL budget: **the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)**. Here are some facts about the CCBC: (1) it has served the citizens of Wisconsin for 32 years (2) it maintains a collection of virtually 100% of the 4,500 books published annually for children in the U.S. for teachers and librarians to examine. These books are provided **FREE** from publishers. (3) The CCBC therefore requires little support for its collection of materials, only for its staff. Half or about \$45,000 comes from the DPI budget and the other half from the School of Education budget. (4) Although based in Madison, CCBC staff travel throughout the state throughout the year (5) The CCBC is essential to the children of the smallest and the most rural of our 427 schools districts. It provides their teachers and librarians with access to the knowledge needed to select materials that usually accessible only to larger and more urban school districts. (6) The CCBC is essential to the children of the largest and most urban of our 427 school districts. It provides their teachers and librarians with specialized knowledge to select materials to meet their increasing economic and ethnic diversity, knowledge that teachers and librarians all over the nation seek from the CCBC--for example in a 3 week national satellite course the CCBC is holding in May.

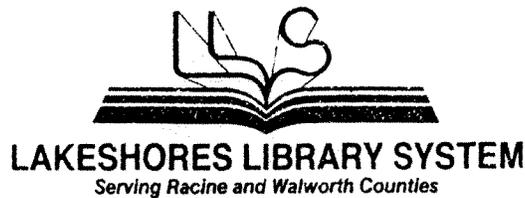
We come to you today to urge you, despite the difficult decisions that lie in the budgetary process ahead, to maintain support for this tiny budget item which has the educational and cost savings impact of a giant.

*Eliza T. Dresang*

Eliza T. Dresang  
Director, Library Media and Technology  
Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD)

*Carolyn Cain*

Carolyn Cain  
Library Media and Technology  
Support Teacher -- MMSD



Testimony by Thomas J. Hennen Jr.  
Speaking on Behalf of the Lakeshores Library System Board

March 1995

Good evening, my name is Tom Hennen. I am the administrator of the Lakeshores Library System, a state funded public library system consisting of 15 public libraries in Racine and Walworth Counties. The Board of Trustees met on March 7, 1995 and adopted positions on the five points listed below. The Board President has communicated these points in writing to all the Representatives and Senators representing Racine and Walworth Counties.

We believe that the Governor's proposed 1996-97 Budget will adversely affect library services to all residents of Racine and Walworth County, and ask for your assistance. The problems we perceive are in five areas:

First, while the budget calls for no change in aids to public library systems, LLS will probably be expected to pick up additional interlibrary loan costs that are currently paid directly by the state-- a cost that could run 4% or more of our annual funding. Second, the system aid formula will likely give us a small reduction, possibly another 1 to 2%. Third, the proposed reductions in staff assistance from the Division for Libraries and Community Learning will also cost us indirectly. Fourth, public library systems should be eligible to borrow from the state's common school fund. Finally, we are concerned about the overall impact of proposed budget cuts to the entire Department of Public Instruction.

#### Statewide Interlibrary Loan Contracts

We support the idea of moving current funding for the "resource provider" contracts from DPI's operational budget (supplies and services) to a segregated account (aids to libraries, individuals & organizations). Failure to do this would amount to state cuts to state-wide interloan contract providers. This, in turn, will probably cost LLS \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.

#### State Aid to Public Library Systems

State aid to systems is scheduled for a 0% increase for 1996 and 1997 in the Governor's budget, but because of the formula, we will likely lose \$14,000 over the biennium from our current base of \$497,000. The System and Resource Library Administrators' Association of Wisconsin and the Lakeshores Board support a 6.0% increase in both years of the biennium. This is to account for inflation, increased costs to get our libraries hooked up to the "Information Superhighway," and finally to help cushion systems (like LLS) that otherwise lose money in the formula distribution.

#### Division for Libraries and Community Learning

The state library cuts will result in definite problems for the system and its member libraries. Library services will be much reduced by the Executive Budget. These proposals include the elimination of a 1.0 FTE library services assistant position, elimination of .4 FTE library consultant in FY96 and 1.0 FTE library consultant in FY97 and much, much more.

730 Wisconsin Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin 53403  
(414) 636-9211

Testimony by Thomas J. Hennen Jr.  
Speaking on Behalf of the Lakeshores Library System Board

March 1995

Overall, the Division for Library's and Community Learning budget could be reduced by 25-30%. The likely positions to be eliminated include a building consultant that has helped put together library building programs for half a dozen libraries in Racine and Walworth Counties in the last 10 years. The help is needed and much more costly to pay for directly. Yet, not getting a qualified building consultant often results in unnecessary or misspent local taxes. Other losses will include an invaluable automation consultant who is critically needed in LLS and throughout the state. Even the legal and fiscal advice that the system and member libraries get on a weekly basis from the Division for Libraries and Community Learning is in serious jeopardy. The interlibrary loan services provided by the state cannot help but be devastated by cuts of the magnitude in this budget. Even the very existence of the statewide bibliographic database known as WISCAT is in jeopardy.

#### Common School Fund

The Wisconsin Common School Fund, established under article X, section 2 of the Constitution, includes income from interest as well as certain fines, fees and forfeitures. The interest earned on the fund supports school libraries in the state. Presently only school districts and municipalities can borrow from the fund. The Wisconsin Library Association and the LLS Board support legislation that would allow Public Library Systems to borrow from the fund. At present fewer and fewer school districts and municipalities are borrowing from the fund. As a result it is earning interest at a lower rate than needed to support school libraries. Allowing public library systems to borrow from the fund for such things as automated circulation or bookmobiles would be beneficial in two ways. It would provide a source of borrowing for systems and build the interest rate earnings so schools can buy more library materials.

#### Department of Public Instruction

The Governor has recommended the creation of a Department of Education to be headed by a secretary that he will appoint.

The Wisconsin Constitution establishes both the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the chief responsibilities of this office. Substantive changes to any constitutional office or provision should only be accomplished through the formal amendment process contained in the Wisconsin constitution.

Extensive cooperation among the widest possible range of education and information consumers and providers is essential in order to achieve efficiency and restrain costs. The sort of "one-stop shopping" education and information agency represented by the existing Department of Public Instruction meets these needs.

As with any agency, the Department of Public Instruction must constantly be in a process of redesign in order to effectively meet the needs of a changing society, but the proposed budget creates substantial changes without sufficient participation by DPI's customers. These customers are the citizens of Wisconsin, school boards, parents of school children, library users, library trustees, and other groups. Re-invention of the Department is in order, but the process needs far broader participation than the Governor's Budget has provided.