

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt139_LFB

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

WANS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



Christian Schools International
District IV

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Diocese of Green Bay

Diocese of LaCrosse

Diocese of Madison

Diocese of Superior

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Northern Wisconsin District

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Southern Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Association of
Independent Schools

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

TO: Members, Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Sharon L. Schmeling, Executive Secretary

DATE: April 16, 1997

RE: educational technology provisions in the proposed 1997-99 State Budget

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the education-related provisions in the Governor's budget bill.

Gov. Tommy Thompson's proposed state budget includes \$200 million to accelerate the use of technology by schools and advance education into the 21st century by making investments in educational technology.

However, these efforts do not include providing technology to the 148,848 nonpublic school students enrolled in more than 900 nonpublic schools in Wisconsin. By omitting nonpublic school students, this "comprehensive" technology plan is overlooking 15 percent of the state's school children!

The Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools represents 75 percent of the state's nonpublic schools, enrolling 128,000 students in 700 school buildings.

It is simple justice to ensure that all of the state's school children have access to educational technologies. No program that ignores such a substantial percentage of the state's school children can be considered equitable.

On behalf of all of the state's nonpublic school children, our Association urges you to support the following changes to the budget:

1. Inclusion for nonpublic schools students in the educational technology access program that provides special, low rates for data and video links to schools. The Governor's budget bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish an educational telecommunications access program under which school districts are provided high speed data transfer lines or 2-way interactive video links for not more than \$250 per month per data line or video link. Any costs exceeding \$250 per month are paid from the universal service fund, which is funded by private telecommunication companies.

The language in the budget bill ought to be clarified to include nonpublic schools.

2. Inclusion in the program that allows schools to lease educational technology equipment with an option to buy. The Governor's budget bill permits school districts, CESAs and public educational institutions to lease educational technology equipment from the state with an option to purchase the equipment. This equipment would be leased through the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board).

The language and intent of the budget bill ought to be changed to clarify that nonpublic educational institutions are allowed to participate.

--OVER--

3. Nonpublic school representation on the TEAWB (Technology for Educational Achievement in Wisconsin Board). This Board is appointed by the Governor and oversees the implementation of the state's educational technology initiatives.

A representative from nonpublic k-12 schools must be appointed to the Board to ensure equitable participation for nonpublic school students.

The state's role in facilitating nonpublic school students access to technology is no different than building a public road to the door of a nonpublic school house. It is no different than bringing public water and sewer lines to the walls of the nonpublic school or ensuring that private companies bring telephone lines to the nonpublic school.

In addition, it is cost effective to include nonpublic school children at the outset of any state-sponsored technology initiatives.

The vast majority of nonpublic school children attend kindergarten through 8th grade and go on to public high schools. (Of the state's 148,848 nonpublic school children, only 24,088 attend nonpublic high schools in the 1995-96 school year. The remaining 124,760 nonpublic school children attend elementary schools and graduated on to public high schools.)

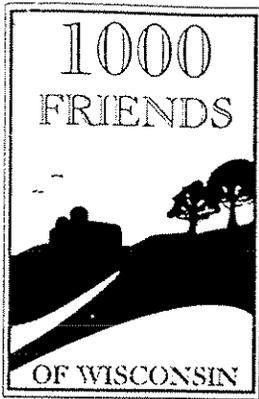
If students in nonpublic schools are not given comparable access to educational technologies, they will be ill-prepared and will need remedial education when they arrive at the state's public schools. Such education is expensive and will be a burden on the already tightly controlled public school budgets.

Furthermore, the inclusion we seek is consistent with recommendations to the state Legislature by the Public Service Commission. In its January 1996 report to the Joint Committee on Information Policy, the Public Service Commission pointed out, correctly, that most private schools are too scattered to make their own cooperative efforts cost effective in the area of technology.

The Commission also correctly noted that nonpublic schools lack access to funding and resources needed to finance educational technologies.

As a result of these realities, the Commission recommended that "government agencies make an effort to remove barriers that make it difficult to share telecommunications networks between public and nonpublic schools, and nonpublic schools should be included in the planning process."

We urge you to find a way to amend the proposed state budget to provide access for ALL of the state's school children.



16 N. Carrol St., Suite 810
Madison, WI 53703
608/259-1000

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance by
Dave Cieslewicz, Executive Director
April 16, 1997

One Thousand Friends of Wisconsin is a new citizens organization whose mission is to advocate for state and local land use policies which protect natural resources, promote the preservation of productive farmland and livable communities and provide for orderly development that most efficiently uses public investments in infrastructure and service delivery.

We would like to comment on three budget issues.

1. We support most of the Governor's brownfields initiative because we believe it will help create more infill development. Homes and businesses which locate on former brownfields contribute to good land use both by being where they are and also by not being someplace else: They contribute to the revitalization of their surrounding neighborhood and they don't contribute to sprawl by locating on the periphery. We have two reservations about the program in the budget:

a) Requiring that at least seven brownfields projects be located in communities under 30,000 seems arbitrary. The program should go where it's needed most, regardless of community size.

b) It's probably not a good idea to fund brownfields redevelopment by taking money from the recycling fund. That amounts to robbing one good program to pay for another.

2. We believe the Governor's proposal to create a permanent Interagency Land Use Council is interesting, but we have some reservations and we urge the Committee to take a closer look at it, as we will. While it's generally a good idea to have greater coordination and communication on land use issues between state agencies, the mission of the permanent ILUC is very close to the original executive order which created it a few years ago. It seems to us that they should have already accomplished the work that they are now asked to do.

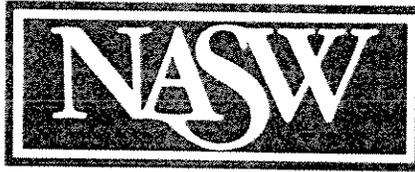
Citizens United For Responsible Land Use

We also urge the Committee to take a hard look at the proposal to eliminate the Land Information Board and to subsume its duties in the ILUC. A stronger case needs to be made that a permanent ILUC is better than the current Land Information Board.

3. Finally, the Committee should resist attempts to increase transportation taxes. Giving the Department of Transportation new revenues now is like rewarding a misbehaving child with a bigger allowance. We should reform DOT and rethink state transportation policies and their impacts on land use before going ahead with any tax increases. "Balanced transportation" has become an almost universally accepted concept, but it is not being practiced in the DOT budget. A transportation budget which spends 78% on roads and less than 6% on mass transit is not balanced by any stretch of the imagination. And more transportation options are going to be necessary as W2 requires that new workers find a way to get to their jobs. But in the last decade we've headed in exactly the wrong direction. Expenditures for new highway projects have risen 98% in the last ten years while mass transit assistance has risen only one-third as fast and routine road maintenance has actually decreased by 9.3%. Still, there are \$1.2 billion in new highway projects already approved and the budget would add another \$317 million in new projects without saying how they will be funded. Essentially, the DOT has created expectations for new highways in communities around the state and then left this Committee to figure out how to pay for them. That's not good budgeting, it's not fair to you and it's a bad way to make public policy.

It's time to take a deep breath and to reevaluate whether our current set of transportation priorities is getting us the kind of communities we want and to ask ourselves if we can afford to build many more new roads. It might be that, like the era of Big Government, the era of Big Road Building is over. Thousand Friends believes that we need to reorder our priorities to take care of existing roads and to increase our transportation options.

Thanks for listening. Good luck on your deliberations.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

CORRECTIONS AND PRISON REFORM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW WI) is proposing a number of changes to the Adult Correctional System programs outlined as part of the Governors Budget Bill. NASW WI opposes the proposal that would allow the DOC wider latitude in sending prisoners out of the state.

While NASW WI recognizes the difficulties of prison overcrowding, no consideration is given in this bill to the civil and human rights of prisoners, their families and loved ones, and the general impact on prisoner's systematic rehabilitation.

Removing a prisoner from regional custody is a hardship, and has several potentially debilitating impacts:

1. Prisoners will have less access to positive, familial and friendship support networks and role models. This will impact a prisoners motivation and celerity in reform.
2. Prisoners have been given no choice and no compensation for this loss of access to loved ones, and neither have loved ones been compensated. No research currently exists documenting the level of hardship involved in out of state prisoner transfers, or the factors that affect a prisoners ability to cope and adapt to new prison settings.
3. This bill again shows a reduction of emphasis on rehabilitation and reform, and greater emphasis on punitive measures which are flashy, ineffective and expensive for tax payers.

NASW WI also opposes the proposal that would allow the development of chain gangs, and the use of stun belts.

1. Chain gangs do not represent a humane, let alone effective, use of prison labor. Chain gangs are not designed for efficient work movement, ease of transport, or safety. Chain gangs are the legacy of racism and human degradation. They are designed to humiliate and demoralize prison workers, and terrify and intimidate "potential offenders." Numerous studies have shown that abused inmates become more difficult to handle and rehabilitate, and that "potential offenders" pay little attention to potential outcomes.

2. Chain gangs and stun belts are reportedly cheaper because they reduce the number of guards needed to watch over inmates. There won't be such a cheap alternative when the state is sued by the family of an inmate injured or killed by a stun belt. Stun belts deliver up to 50,000 volts for eight seconds. Voltage can be reapplied repeatedly, and voltage can be administered by accident. Current records indicate that stun belt voltages have been administered unintentionally about as often as they have been administered intentionally. High voltage levels can cause heart arrhythmia, and even aortic aneurysms.

These proposals do not represent reforms. They represent draconian, punitive measures which intentionally inflict pain and humiliation on a soaring prison population. They take Wisconsin further and further from its proud and long tradition of progressive change and leadership, and will ultimately cost more money, interfere with rehabilitation, and do nothing to prevent further criminal offenses.

NASW WI therefore opposes this legislation and demands that this legislation be removed from the budget proposal.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

W-2 REFORM

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW WI) is proposing a number of changes to the W-2 program as part of the state budget. The proposed changes are as follows:

1) NASW WI opposes the proposal that would mandate the reduction of a participant's grant for twelve months if the individual tested positive for drugs.

This proposal would unnecessarily punish children for the mistakes of their parents. It would also create an additional barrier for parents who try to overcome a drug problem. Instead of reducing the individual's grant, it would be more beneficial to offer the opportunity for substance abuse treatment.

2. NASW WI opposes the replacement of the current fair hearing process for grievances with an administrative procedure conducted by the W-2 agency or DILJD.

As the large number of successful fair hearing appeals in the Pay for Performance Program demonstrates, the fair hearing process is critical to protecting the rights of W-2 participants from errors made by workers. The fair hearing process is a long time federal requirement that will continue for grievances in the administration of the food stamp and medicaid programs and should continue with the administration of W-2. Finally it is imperative in any hearing process that the participants' benefits be maintained until a decision is made on the grievance.

3. NASW WI believes that the budget for W-2 should ensure that all who meet the eligibility requirements and follow the rules receive the services needed (employment programs, child care, health care and transportation).

Currently there is no provision that guarantees participation for all those who are eligible. No family should be denied service because the state fails to provide enough money, especially when economic times are not as good as the present. Families are required to hold up their side of the social contract and the state should be required to do the same.

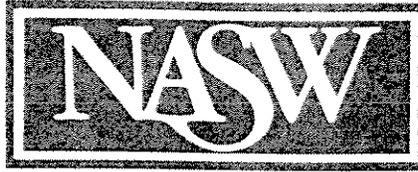
4. NASW WI believes that W-2 should provide at least the minimum wage rather than a grant for Community Service jobs and Transitional Placement activities to fulfill the work requirement.

In addition to being fair, the minimum wage for these job categories could make participants eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit(EITC), increasing their income. Since the EITC is available only to those who work, it is shortsighted to deny this extra income to working families at the lowest rung of the economic ladder, and also to deny the influx of some 92 million dollars* in these federal funds into the state. Finally the availability of EITC for all W-2 participating families will mitigate the sharp reduction in monthly revenue experienced by large families, including many Hmong families.

5. NASW WI believes that W-2 should permit education and training that develop job skills to fulfill the work requirement. NASW WI also believes that W-2 should allow the teen parents to qualify for W-2 by attending high school.

Numerous studies have shown that education increases an individual's earning power. If the goal of W-2 is to promote self-sufficiency among participants, surely education and training should be key components of such a program. In the absence of changes to W-2, it will be almost impossible for W-2 participants to get education and training, forcing them to stay in lower paying jobs. There would also be no incentive for teen parents to stay in school.

* Based on estimates provided by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to Senators Chvala, Moen and Moore in February 1996



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

CHILD WELFARE STANDARDS

The Child Welfare system in Wisconsin, especially in Milwaukee County, is failing in its mission to protect and provide permanency for children in need. In Milwaukee County, the out-of-home caseload grew from 1,220 children in 1986 to nearly 6,000 children in 1994, with costs of care increasing from \$3 M in 1986 to \$30 M in 1994. Child abuse and neglect referrals have doubled from 1986 to 1995, now averaging 900 a month, while funding statewide for child welfare services has decreased. Caseload size in Child Welfare services average five times the amount recommended by the Child Welfare League of America. There is no uniformity in hiring standards, resulting in many agencies hiring staff to perform social work functions who have no Social Work training. Lastly, minimal financial resources have been made available for preventative services, which are less costly to deliver and may often eliminate the need for more costly crisis and out-of-home care.

The delivery of Child Welfare services requires highly trained and skilled staff to sensitively make the difficult decisions required to protect children and families. Social Work is the only profession that offers training specifically for child welfare service delivery. Child Welfare training is funded by Social Security Act Title IV-E, and requires participation in an accredited Social Work program. The unique body of knowledge upon which the Social Work profession is based is recognized by numerous government and professional organizations as critical to the delivery of quality child welfare services. The social work profession provides the framework for meeting the challenge of effective assessment, treatment and prevention services necessary to alleviate the social, economic and personal conditions contributing to child abuse and neglect.

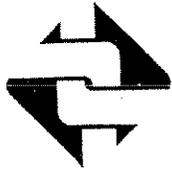
The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers makes the following recommendations to alleviate the current circumstances that has resulted in the failure of the current child welfare system in achieving its mission to protect and enhance the well-being of children.

- *Increase funding to levels that reflect the actual needs of the community, including bilingual, AODA, AODA, and special needs adoptions services.
- *An undergraduate or graduate social work degree should be required for the delivery and administration of social services in public child welfare to ensure that workers have the necessary skills, knowledge and values to provide high quality services.
- *Establish caseload sizes that meet nationally accepted standards of quality. Child Welfare League of America standards are as follows:
 - 12 active intake investigations per month per Social Worker
 - 17 active on-going families per Social Worker, and no more than 1 new case for each 6 open cases
 - 10 active ongoing cases and 4 active investigations per Social Worker
 - 1 Social Work Supervisor for each 5 Social Workers
 - 15 families per Social Worker in a family-centered casework delivery system
 - 2 to 6 families per Social Worker in intensive family-centered crisis services delivery system
 - 12 to 15 children per Social Worker in family foster care services
- *The agency providing the service should have a track record of successfully working collaboratively with a wide range of community services and programs, have mechanisms to allow for worker and client input, and be accountable for the quality and quantity of services provided.
- *The agency providing the service should have a strong affirmative action policy and a good record of hiring and retaining minority staff.

- *Comprehensive analysis regarding the privatization of child welfare services must occur, examining the efforts and experiences of other states, such as Hawaii, New York and Massachusetts, and developing appropriate standards for the private sector.
- *Salary levels should reflect education, training, skill, expertise and experience of the staff. A strong benefit package should be provided to recruit, train, and retain the highest qualified individuals. Benefits should include on-going professional development.
- *The agency should employ full-time rather than part-time staff, to reduce the incidence of staff turnover. A career ladder for experienced staff who dedicate themselves to continuing to work with children and families should be provided, and should include salary differentiation for BSW and MSW degrees and years of experience.

Prepared by Mary J. Glab, ACSW, CICSW, for testimony at the State Budget hearings.
April 16, 1997.

For more information, please contact: Marc Herstand, Executive Director
Wisconsin Chapter
National Association of Social Workers
14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 104
Madison, WI 53703
(608)-257-6334



Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) FACT SHEET

The Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System is a statewide health professions program, dedicated to improving access to health care in Wisconsin's rural and underserved communities. The Wisconsin AHEC System is a collaboration of the Medical College of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin -Madison Medical School, four regional AHEC corporations, and community and academic partners throughout the state.

Program Office: The Program Office is located at both the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Members of the program offices work in conjunction with the academic institutions *and* regional centers to identify areas of collaboration and serve as a bridge between the regional centers and academic community.

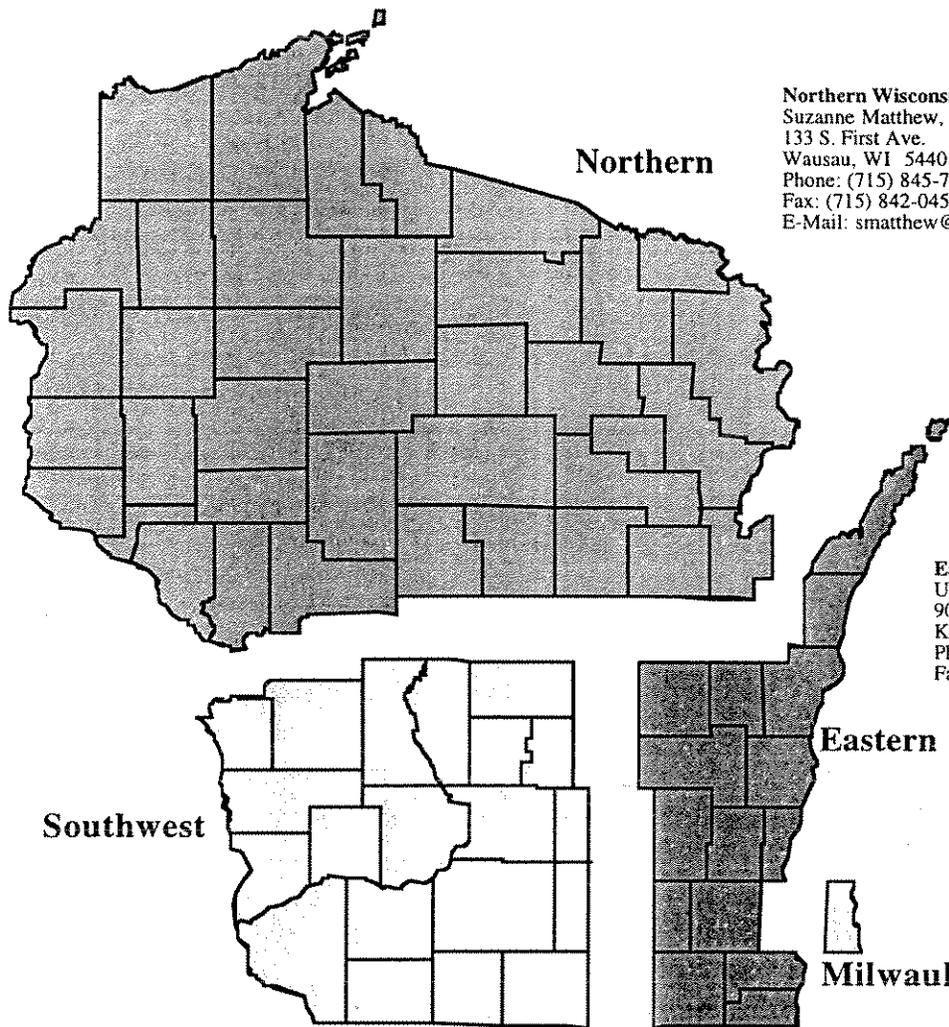
Regional Centers: The four regional AHEC corporations are responsible for identifying and prioritizing the needs of communities in its region, and for working with community and academic partners to develop educational programs to address these needs. (See regional areas on reverse side.)

Meeting the Needs of Wisconsin's Communities: Wisconsin's rural and central city communities face financial, cultural, and geographic barriers to health care contributing to the maldistribution of health care providers. Primary care is the essential front line of health care systems that contributes to the building and maintenance of healthy communities. By providing educational experiences for health professions students in underserved areas, AHEC helps to prepare and attract future practitioners to serve areas of greatest need.

- ***Clinical Training*** - The Wisconsin AHEC System helps to identify new preceptors, develop training sites for health professions students, and develop new and innovative educational programs in rural and underserved areas. Improving curriculum to address community needs, enhancing student skills to care for underserved populations, or increasing awareness of cultural, geographic, and financial barriers to health care access represent AHEC's approaches to health professions education.
- ***Interdisciplinary Education*** - The Wisconsin AHEC System has a network of interdisciplinary training sites throughout the state. These decentralized training sites incorporate the principles of community-oriented primary care and often focus on special population groups within the community. Experience at these sites provides students with a greater appreciation for the health care needs specific to communities and teaches them how to utilize available local resources. Students also learn to work effectively with health care providers from a variety of disciplines.
- ***Programs that Enhance the Practice Environment*** - The Wisconsin AHEC System provides community health system development, and supports education training to improve the health of the communities. In addition, continuing education, preceptor development, and information dissemination initiatives contribute to the retention of providers in areas of greatest need.

(over)

Wisconsin AHEC System



Northern

Northern Wisconsin AHEC
Suzanne Matthew, PhD, Executive Director
133 S. First Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone: (715) 845-7710
Fax: (715) 842-0455
E-Mail: smatthew@dwave.net

Eastern Wisconsin AHEC
UW-Parkside
900 Wood Rd., PO Box 2000
Kenosha, WI 53141
Phone: (414) 595-2135
Fax: (414) 595-2672

Eastern

Southwest

Southwest Wisconsin AHEC
Catherine Clark, MPH, Executive Director
1800 Parmenter St., Suite 201
Middleton, WI 53562
Phone: (608) 831-2168
Fax: (608) 831-9211
E-Mail: cclark@fammed.wisc.edu

Milwaukee

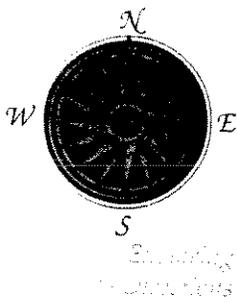
Milwaukee AHEC
Darryl Pendleton, DMD, Executive Director
2220 E. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 226-2432
Fax: (414) 226-2433
E-Mail: milahecp@aol.com

Medical College of Wisconsin
Wisconsin AHEC System
8701 Watertown Plank Rd.
MEB Bldg., Room S207
PO Box 26509
Milwaukee, WI 53226-0509

AHEC STATEWIDE PROGRAM OFFICE

Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD, System Director
Phone: (414) 456-8291 Fax: (414) 266-8537
E-Mail: maurana@post.its.mcw.edu

University of Wisconsin Medical School
Wisconsin AHEC System
707 WARF Bldg., 610 Walnut St.
Madison, WI 53705



Charter Schools: A Reality Check

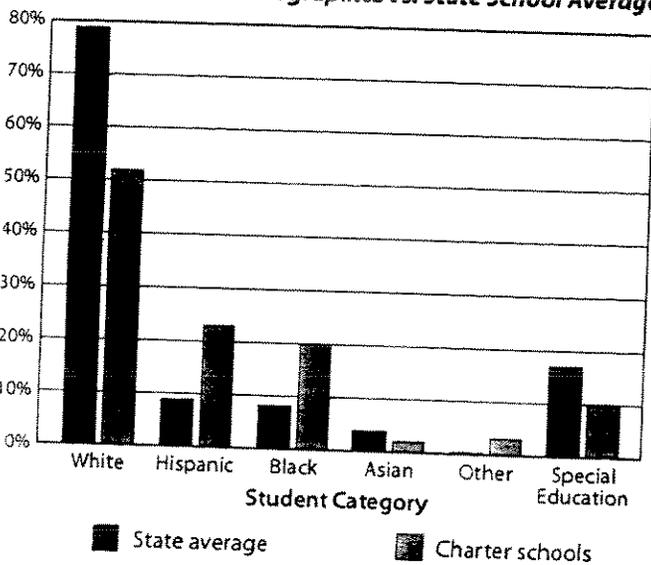
Since the opening of the first Massachusetts charter schools in 1995, there has been substantial debate about the nature and impact of these new providers of public education. Most of the discussion has been based on conjecture and ideology, rather than facts. Now that 15 charter schools have been in operation for almost a full school year, it is possible to conduct a reality check by looking at the available data.

MYTH: Charter schools will not be racially and ethnically diverse, and will not accept special needs students

FACT: Charter Schools Are More Diverse Than the Average Public School

Enrollment data collected by the Massachusetts Department of Education and Executive Office of Education show that charter schools have relatively fewer white students and relatively more minority students than the average public school in the Commonwealth.

Charter School Demographics vs. State School Average



Source: Spring 1996 survey of charter school parents (sample size = 495)

Over 10 percent of charter school students have special needs and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). While this is below the state average, it is above the national average for all public schools.

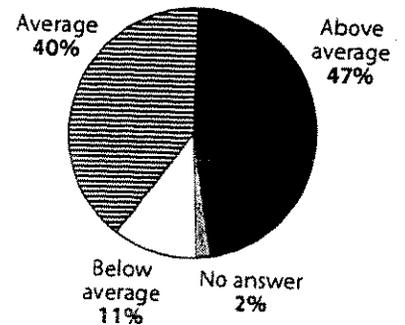
MYTH: Charter schools will attract only the best students

FACT: Most Incoming Charter School Students Were Average or Below-Average Achievers at Their Previous Schools

In a mail survey of charter school parents conducted by Pioneer Institute, 51 percent said their children were average or below-average achievers at their prior schools.

Given that these are opinion data, rather than test scores, the results should not be considered definitive. Nevertheless, it certainly appears that charter schools are not exclusive clubs for high-achieving students.

Academic Performance of Incoming Charter School Students As Reported by Parents



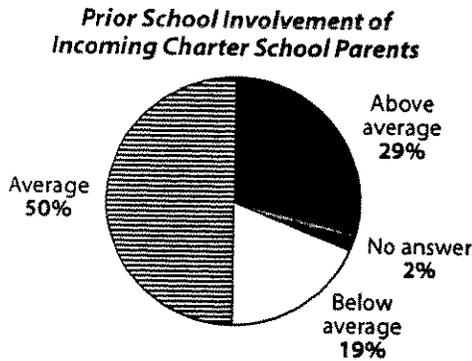
Source: Spring 1996 survey of charter school parents (sample size = 495)

Over, please

MYTH: Charter schools will attract only the most involved parents

FACT: Less than One-Third of Charter School Parents Were More Involved in School Affairs Than the Average Parent

According to Pioneer's survey of charter school parents, only 29 percent believe their level of participation in their child's prior school was above average. If this opinion survey is an accurate reflection of actual parental involvement, then it is clear that charter school parents are no more active in their children's education than the average parent.



Source: Spring 1996 survey of charter school parents (sample size = 495)

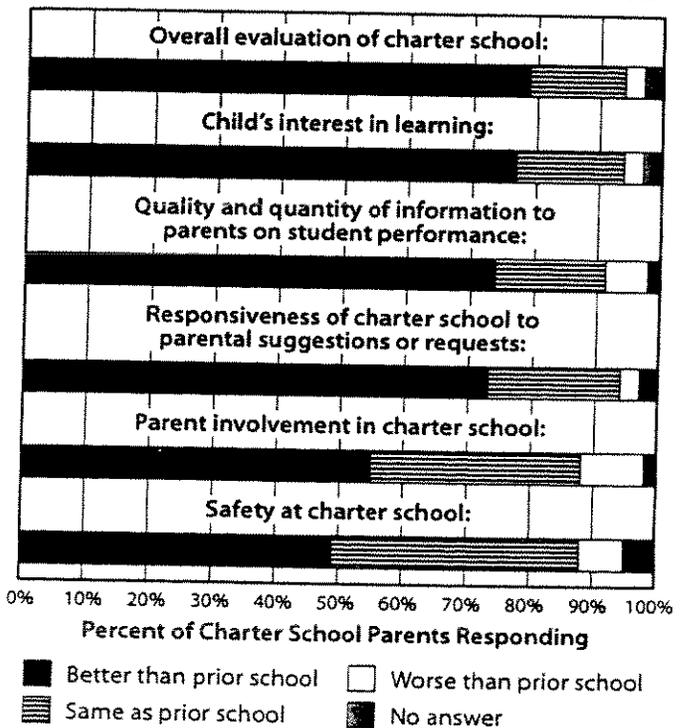
The number one reason why charter school parents chose their charter school was the quality and character of its educational program. The next most important reason was the structure of the school, including such characteristics as longer school days, longer school years, and smaller size. Almost all of the reasons cited by parents involved important educational issues.

MYTH: Charter schools will not be superior to existing public schools

FACT: Charter School Parents Believe Their New Schools Are Superior to Their Prior Schools

According to Pioneer's survey of charter school parents, 79 percent report that their overall experience with their new school is superior to their past experiences in other, non-charter schools. Only a handful of charter school parents found their charter school to be in any way inferior to previous schools.

Performance of Charter Schools vs. Previous Schools



Percent of Charter School Parents Responding

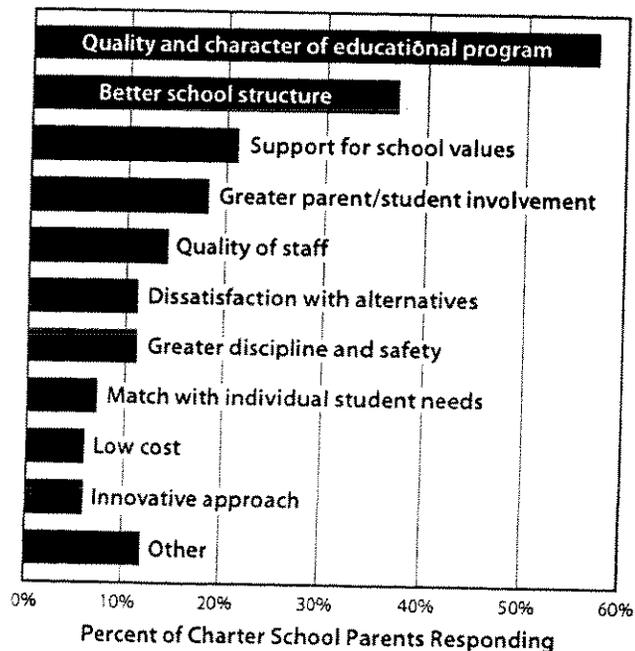
■ Better than prior school □ Worse than prior school
 ▨ Same as prior school ■ No answer

Source: Spring 1996 survey of charter school parents (sample size = 495)

MYTH: Parents will choose charter schools for reasons other than educational quality

FACT: Most Parents Chose Charter Schools for Educational Reasons

Reasons Why Parents Chose Charter Schools



Source: Spring 1996 survey of charter school parents (sample size = 495)

Memorandum

April 16, 1997

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
From: Scott Sabo, for Badger-Hawkeye Red Cross
Re: Budget Provision on Bone and Tissue Harvesting Merits Support

The Budget contains a provision to amend Wisconsin's version of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act to permit trained technicians to remove donated bone and tissue from deceased donors. I appear in support of that provision.

In 1969, the state of Wisconsin adopted its version of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) -- a law adopted to govern the critical and humanitarian function of procurement of deceased donor body parts for use in life- and health-saving transplantation procedures.

At that time, the majority of transplantation procedures involved "solid organs" -- such as the heart, kidney, and liver. While organ transplantation has grown greatly since the 1960's, transplantation of other tissues -- such as processed bone, tendons, and heart valves -- has become even more common. Today, donated tissue products are routinely used by orthopedic and cardiac surgeons and other physicians to treat burn victims, persons involved in serious accidents, patients with heart and bone diseases, and many others.

On a yearly basis, hundreds of Wisconsin patients -- and thousands nationally -- benefit from the heartfelt generosity of deceased donors and their families, and from the dedicated work of hospitals and other agencies involved in procurement and transplantation procedures.

As originally enacted, the Wisconsin UAGA specifically authorizes only "physicians" to procure tissues for transplantation. Yet, with scientific advancements made in the 28 years since then, actual practice has evolved accordingly. While tissues are now routinely obtained, the procurement procedure is most typically conducted by highly-trained technicians working under the supervision of a physician.

Memorandum

Currently, Wisconsin is the only state that still restricts procurement activity solely to "physicians." Enactment of the Budget provision would bring Wisconsin's statute into congruence with those of other states by making a technical amendment to specifically authorize professionally trained and supervised "technicians" to remove donated tissues.

Clarifying the authority of technicians to procure tissues will ensure that severely ill and injured Wisconsin residents continue to receive the vital services provided by biomedical organizations dedicated to procurement and transplantation. Needed tissues will be more available if all qualified personnel clearly have the authority to procure them.

In recent weeks, the federal Food and Drug Administration has issued new guidelines for tissue procurement that will likely require additional training for professionals who procure tissue -- requirements which may be impractical and unrealistic for physicians to fulfill. And in the current climate of health care cost control, it is a far better use of resources for physicians to practice preventive and curative medicine for the living while trained technicians perform procurements involving deceased donors.

Enactment of the Budget provision is supported by the American Red Cross -- North Central Tissue Services and St. Luke's Medical Center, the two organizations which provide tissue services in Wisconsin, as well as by Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital and Wisconsin Donor Network, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and the UW Organ Procurement Organization, and the Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association. Your support for this important Budget provision would also be appreciated.

April 15, 1997

Representative Scott Jensen
Senator Brian Burke
Joint Committee on Finance
Wisconsin State Assembly

Last year the state agency Affirmative action officers made recommendations to the civil service reform Commission. At the top of our list was retention of the State Affirmative Action Council.

The State of Wisconsin agency Affirmative Action Officers would like to express its unanimous support for the continuation of the existence of the Wisconsin Affirmative Action Council. The Affirmative Action Council has played a vital role in maintaining the State of Wisconsin's reputation of providing progressive leadership among state governments, in the area of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity.

As you all are aware, Wisconsin's Fair Employment Law was one of the first and remains one of the best state laws in the country in safe guarding AA/EEO. The citizen of Wisconsin demands that we take the lead in advocating for the equal rights of all its citizens.

The Affirmative Action Council is the citizens input and access into the state government Affirmative Action programs. It is part of a unique triad that makes up state government's Affirmative Action/ Equal Employment Opportunity community partnership. The state agencies and the Department of Employment Relations, Division of Affirmative Action are both accountable to the AAC.

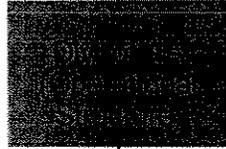
The AAC has a critical role by providing public access to state government AA/EEO programs. They do this by conducting public state agency monitoring and evaluation hearings that assure agency compliance with state AA policies and procedures. The AAC also advises DER's Division of Affirmative Action in setting State AA policy and minimum standards and providing support in recommending AA/EEO related legislation.

The state agencies like any service organization need to know from its citizen accessible groups, what they believe is expected and needed. It is important that government allow avenues for such public review of governmental entities. This is one method of ensuring that the state bureaucracy is in touch with the our citizen customer's needs and that we incorporate an external perspective to how we operate in state government.

Currently, discrimination and harassment claims against the State of Wisconsin has risen from under \$500,000 in 1992 to almost 3.5 million in 1997. At this time it is imparative that we increase the collaberation among the various AA/EEO componets to ensure that we make significant progress in ensuring a harassment free, equal employment opportunity environment in state government and the state of Wisconsin. Elimination of the Affirmative Action Council would deminish our capacity and effectiveness in doing so.

State Of Wisconsin
Affirmative Action Officers

AAC INFLUENCE

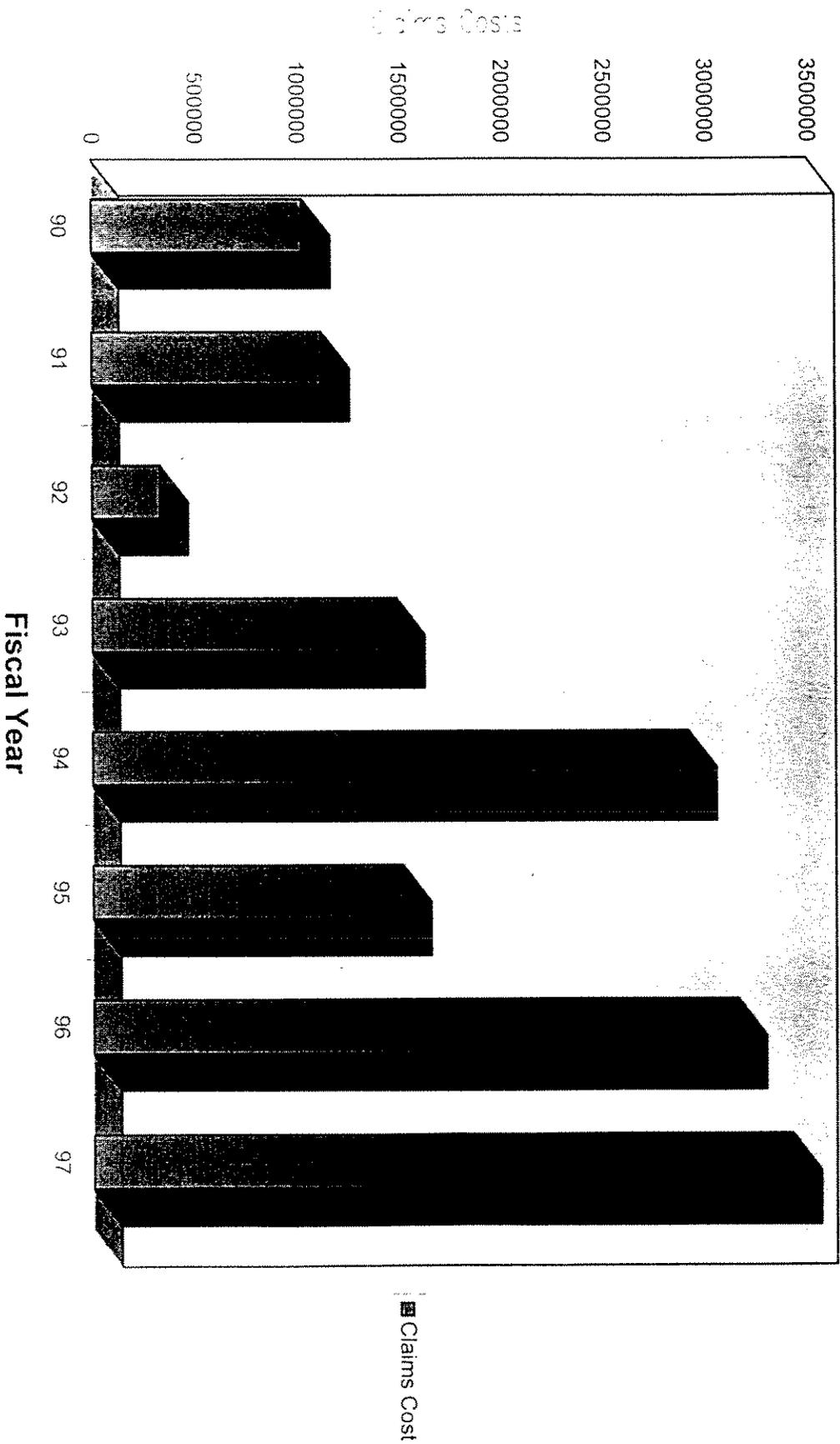


AAC

DAA

AAO

Discrimination & Harassment Claims Costs



State Employees Council/WFT/AFT/AFL-CIO

1334 Applegate Road

Madison, WI 53713

(608) 277-7700 (800) 362-7390

STATEMENT BY KEN OLSON TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 16, 1997

I am Ken Olson, Chair of the State Employee Council of the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. I have been employed as a forensic scientist with the Department of Justice for 17 years.

The WFT State Employee Council represents the interests of nearly six thousand professional state employees who make it possible for state government to function. We provide essential high-level professional services in literally every agency in state government and on every University of Wisconsin System campus. We are computer programmers, systems analysts and network administrators; forensic scientists; veterinarians, doctors and dentists; auditors; statistical and research analysts; bank examiners; special agents; and many, many more classifications.

We come here today because we have pride in the civil service. We believe in giving something back to the communities in which we live and work. In good times and in times of crisis we have always been there for the people of Wisconsin. We are dedicated to public service and are proud of the solid reputation of Wisconsin's professional state employees.

We have repeatedly proven our efficiency and effectiveness. In fact, Wisconsin ranks 46th out of fifty states in the number of state employees per capita. In recent years we have continued to do more with less resources. Despite less funding, increasing responsibilities and a shrinking state employee work force, we continue to provide the high quality services that Wisconsin citizens deserve and have learned to expect.

Despite our unquestioned accomplishments, however, we have learned that our political leaders are among those least likely to recognize our contribution and accord us respect. At the same time that our jobs have become more difficult and demands for our services have increased, an increasingly hostile political environment has put us constantly on the defensive, forced to fight for respect, decent pay and - in too many cases - our careers.

Some of our political leaders curry public favor by attacking anonymous government "bureaucrats". One top political leader recently referred to our hard-working members at the Department of Public Instruction as "educrats". Too often we are chastised for implementing the very laws and policies that are established in the Legislature and in the Governor's office. We are deeply offended by these attacks on us and on our work.

We are very concerned that recent years have begun a dangerous trend of eroding the state employee workforce, and, therefore, the effectiveness and efficiency of the state government. The negative political environment we work under has had several significant results that will lead to disaster if this trend continues.

- ▶ **A reduction in real wages for state employees.** In recent years, while the Wisconsin economy has grown and personal incomes in the state have grown by 6.2% from 1994 to 1995, state employees have failed to keep pace with even today's modest rate of inflation. In the 1995-97 biennium the administration held the line in our bargaining sessions at 1 and 2 percent for the two years. The Governor's current budget proposal for the next two years again assumes yet another meager wage adjustment for state employees.
- ▶ **Failure to pay market rates for professional positions.** The WFT State Employees Council represents most of the professional employees in state service. In too many

classifications, the pay range assigned is woefully inadequate to compensate our members for the high-level professional work they perform. Although the market rates for these classifications are well-established and mostly non-controversial, the state refuses to make the adjustments necessary to recruit and retain qualified candidates. When a market disparity is admitted by the state, it is expected that any market adjustment come out of our compensation package, making it even less likely that all of our members will be adequately compensated. The compensation reserve as reflected in the Governor's budget is entirely inadequate to deal with market rate issues and cost of living issues.

- ▶ **Contracting Out and Privatization.** This administration has an unabated and irrational bias to contract out the work of the state, work that has always been done well by state employees, to the detriment of not only the state employees but the state taxpayers. This can be seen most clearly in the information technology area. Not only has the Governor chosen not to create adequate numbers of state employee positions to do this important work; the administration has also failed in its statutory duty to keep the information technology classifications up to date and at market rates. As a result, the state is unnecessarily contracting computer work for as much as \$125 an hour that can and should be done by state employees. We have reviewed the agency budgets as proposed by the Governor and found that there is at least \$64 million budgeted for information technology services and hardware, with only about 11 FTE positions provided to do that work. That is a lot of expensive, unnecessary spending on private contractors.

These and other factors have lead to an erosion in the state workforce. We are losing quality employees to the private sector. Those of us still here are swamped by ever-increasing workloads.

Our morale as employees is affected by our deteriorating working conditions and because we are a constant target of those who would use us as a political football and who mistakenly think the quality of the Wisconsin state government will somehow survive this era of neglect and attack

We can no longer accept such indifference from our employer. We can no longer accept such disrespect for our work. We say this not out of arrogance. We are in no position to be arrogant. We say this not out of a lack of respect for the members of the legislature. We say this out of self respect and pride in our work. Accordingly, we ask that this Committee carefully review the proposed budget as it relates to state employee wages, contracting out and adequate staffing levels. We ask that this committee adjust the budget to accord us the respect we have earned and to adequately provide quality services to Wisconsin taxpayers.



WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES COUNCIL · LOCAL 4848
1334 APPLGATE ROAD · MADISON, WI 53713 · 608-277-7700 · 800-362-7390

Fair pay and a fair say: Stand up for what professionals deserve!

Testimony of Mike Plaisted
WFT Staff Representative for
the Wisconsin Professional Employees Council (WPEC)
Local 4848, WFT/AFT/AFL-CIO

Joint Finance Committee — April 16, 1997

Subject: The Wisconsin Lottery

My name is Mike Plaisted. I am a Staff Representative for the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. For the past five years, I have worked almost exclusively for WFT's largest local, the Wisconsin Professional Employees Council (WPEC). WPEC represents over 3900 professional state employees in every state agency and University system campus.

Among our members are a small but dedicated group of marketing professionals who, from 1988 until last year, represented the Wisconsin Lottery to its retail outlets throughout the state. Our members had regular routes of stores large and small at which they would make sure the needs of the retailers were met, introduced new games, performed important security functions regarding the tickets and delivered the tickets to the outlets.

Our members have watched in horror as Lottery administrators closed offices, conducted layoffs and shuffled them off to other positions in the Department of Revenue. The last two office were closed last year in anticipation of total privatization of the Lottery. Now, with the failure of the attempt to privatize because - predictably - the bid from the single bidder could not be justified, no one has been doing this important work for almost an entire year.

The results of the Lottery's mistake of jettisoning our members have been predictable and disastrous for the success of the Lottery. The number of retailers have dropped from 5000 to 4200. The Department of Revenue now estimates that Lottery proceeds will fall as much as 20% this year. The recent Legislative Audit Bureau report agrees that the dramatic fall-off in Lottery sales is directly related to the elimination of the state employee sales marketing force.

The Audit Bureau report has led some in the legislature to attempt to kill the Lottery altogether. We are taking no position on that effort. However, if Wisconsin is to have a Lottery, it is our position that the Lottery must be operated by the state and that work must be done by state employees.

Our position is that the Lottery can become more successful within the structure of the Governor's budget proposal currently before you. The budget, which eliminates 31.5 positions but retains 92.5 positions for all lottery operations, actually leaves room for staffing a reconstructed state employee retailer support function. According to a report by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, 32 of the positions are allocated for "marketing and retailer relations". At least half of those positions could and should be used to resurrect the retailer support function. Our members should be allowed to return to those positions if they want to and their responsibilities should be enhanced to make full use of their skills as marketing experts.

It also appears that another change in the Lottery is necessary. Through the years since the creation of the Lottery Board, the Lottery has moved to the Gaming Commission and finally, last year, to the Department of Revenue as a separate division. During all of that time, the same core of administrators have stayed with the Lottery and are still there today. These are the same administrators who have presided over a Lottery on a downward spiral when the national trend

for Lottery sales is up. These are the same administrators that allowed the sales marketing force to be decimated and eliminated irresponsibly, before a structure was in place to perform this vital function. This is the same group who have allowed the Lottery to limp along with a skeleton staff for the past year. These are the administrators who have failed Wisconsin taxpayers by mismanaging the Wisconsin Lottery. The Lottery needs new blood and a complete change in its leadership to be successful.

The Governor's budget provides the resources for the Lottery to be successful. However, the status quo must change. Our members stand ready to return to the Lottery and to work, as they always have, toward a successful future and increased property tax relief.

Honorable Representative Scott Jenson - Co-Chair of Joint
Finance Committee
State Capitol Building

Hearing on the Governor's Budget for 1997-99

April 16, 1997

RE: **Community Aids and Long-Term Care**

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

- Is compassion and humanity a thing of the past? Where is the logic in increasing funding for Nursing Homes while freezing and cutting programs that allow people with long term needs to live in the community?
- People with disabilities living in the community create jobs and the money they spend on life's activities goes directly to the community.
- Of course Nursing Homes offer a service to some, but when Wisconsin has the highest number of nursing home beds per capita, why give more dollars to warehouse people in unnatural settings?
- If people with disabilities were their primary concern, wouldn't Nursing Home Companies advocate that people live in the community where they are a part of the community?
- Times have changed since we grew up even just twenty-five years ago. We are no longer hiding and warehousing people who are "different" so they are out of sight and out of mind. We may have different responses, but we all know that all people are people, and they have the right to live in the community of their choice. Our awareness and consciousness has changed, and now our attitude needs to change to reflect our new understanding that- whatever someone's circumstance, he or she has the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
- **REMEMBER, all of us are one drunk driver away from the following scenario: In the middle of your long spinal cord injury rehabilitation your insurance runs out; your HMO informs you that you have used up your hospital days; you then use up your savings, and then you discover that there are hundreds of people on waiting lists ahead of you for Community Aids Programs- *SO WHAT DO YOU DO?* Your choice is to move into a shared room in a Nursing home, where your daily routine is decided by staff and professionals other than yourself? (Idea: **GO EXPLORE a Nursing Home!**)**
- The Community Integration Program (CIP), and the Community Option Programs (COP), are already in place and provide people a means to live in the community in a fiscally sound manner.

- COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE ABOUT PEOPLE!

If my words jar you, so much the better, for only when you have a personal sense, or connection to these issues do you begin to see life's reality for people with disabilities. Do you honestly think that the lobbyists in dress suits understand the situation of people with disabilities trying to survive while on waiting lists? Do you think any of them ever had to make a decision to alternate months on whether to buy food or one's prescriptions because they can't move off the waiting list into the CIP or COP programs?

If you would like to discuss any of these ideas or thoughts further, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Johnson".

Richard Johnson
922 East Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Discrimination & Harassment Claims Costs

