

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_pt156_

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 263-3422 Fax: (608) 265-4070

Testimony of

Timothy L. Casper

United Council President

on the 1997-99 Biennial Budget Proposal

Before the Joint Committee on Finance

April 16, 1997

Chairman Burke, Chairman Jensen, and members of the committee, good morning and thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. My name is Timothy Casper and I am President of United Council, the state student association of Wisconsin which represents more than 140,000 students at 24 UW System campuses.

In recent years, the UW System has continued to shrink as a total of the state's expenditures. In 1974, the UW System was nearly 14.5% of the state's budget; however, by the end of 1999 it may be less than 9%. During that time, students and their families continued to face tuition increases which were more than twice the rate of inflation.

This increase in the cost of higher education has occurred concurrently with increases in the length of time a student spends in college. A limited availability of classes, increases in credits to degree, and poor academic advising have caused students to spend more time in school. The Board of Regents in their *Study of the UW System in the 21st Century* researched this problem and found that improved advising services would help expedite students' time to degree. The \$4 million initiative would address the advising problems that occur on each campus. As students graduate faster, not only will they save money, the state would also save money by cutting excess time a student would spend at our institutions and decrease the GPR dollars spent during their tenure.

Another area of concern for students is the transfer of funds between auxiliaries. This "flexibility" is a new item contained within the budget. Auxiliaries are areas on campus such as parking, the bookstore, and residence halls. The flexibility would allow the transfer of funds on a one-time basis from one auxiliary to another on campus. Students are concerned that this creates an incentive to raise rates and generate a surplus in an auxiliary with the hope of transferring the money at a later date.

For example, at nine of the comprehensive campuses, students are required to live in the residence halls the first two years they attend college. With this guarantee of revenue, it would be easy to

raise rates and obtain a surplus that could be transferred later to another area of the university. Currently, if a campus has a need to transfer funds, they may come to you as members of the Joint Committee on Finance and request in their budget proposal a transfer of these funds. If this flexibility remains in the budget, the committee would not have oversight over the transfer and the Board of Regents would be able to approve the transfer of these funds.

The state of Wisconsin has benefited from a strong and stable economy in the past several years. Businesses have decided to locate and expand in Wisconsin due to the increasing quality of graduates from the UW System. However, as Wisconsin's economy has grown, the UW System has not benefited from the state's increased resources.

The State Legislature must consider making an appropriate investment in the UW System. The returns that the state receives on this investment are numerous: an educated workforce, higher paid citizens who will generate a larger tax base, and people who are concerned about giving back to their communities.

Thank you for your time on this important issue.

My name is Bob Selchert. I am here today representing Wisconsin Rural Water Assn. This association is made up of over 400 cities, towns, villages and sanitary districts, throughout our state with population of under 10,000 people. We are here to encourage your support for the Governor's budget, especially for the State Revolving Fund(SRF) provided to Wisconsin by the passing of the Safe Drinking Water Act(SDWA) last year by the federal government.

The State of Wisconsin is eligible to receive around 41 million from the federal government through the State Revolving fund. The State of Wisconsin is required to provide for matching funding, down the road, to support and maintain this (SRF) State Revolving Fund and for Wisconsin to get the maximum dollars for this program from the federal government.

We especially want to see the 2% set aside for technical assistance included in this budget. This provides for small systems throughout our state to receive on site technical assistance, to meet the new requirements of the (SDWA) Safe Drinking Water Act. This may be the only way many small systems may get any benefit from this State Revolving Fund. We would like to also see the 15% of SRF fund guaranteed to small systems raised, so that more financially strapped small systems can get loans and grants for their water system improvements.

Again we encourage your support for the Governor's budget concerning the (SRF) State Revolving Fund, so that the Dept. of Natural Resources can get on with the IUP (Intended use plan, and submit it to the EPA for approval and the program can get started in our State.

Thank you.

Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association

PO Box 6081 • Madison, Wisconsin 53716

Joint Finance Committee
State Capital Building
Madison, WI 53701

April 2, 1997

Dear Sirs:

The Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association (WUAA) is a state-wide group of recreational scuba divers interested in the study and preservation of the state's underwater history and cultural resources.

It has come to our attention that the upcoming state budget calls for reductions in the funding for the State Historical Society (SHS) which may result in the elimination of certain programs. Our group has worked with the SHS Underwater Archeology Program for six years and feels that the state of Wisconsin cannot afford to lose such a worthwhile program.

The Underwater Archeology Program is important, we feel, because:

It has developed a program to define and preserve our rich underwater heritage.

It has conducted archeology field projects with active participation by volunteer sport divers.

It has assisted WUAA in their projects, guiding them toward professional results.

It has assisted in archeological workshops for sport divers. Educating them in proper mapping and reporting techniques along with the importance of on site preservation rather than artifact removal.

It has been active in providing legislation for the protection of our underwater heritage.

WUAA feels strongly that the Underwater Archeology Program has made a significant impact on the preservation and understanding of the state's underwater resources. By becoming involved with groups like ours, most recreational divers are now aware of the importance of our underwater heritage and of preserving it.

The Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association requests that funding for the State Historical Society not be reduced and that programs such as the Underwater Archeology Program be maintained.

Sincerely,



Thomas Villand, President

Joint Committee on Finance
Senate Bill 77/ Assembly Bill 100- Governor's 1997-99 executive budget bill
Legislative Hearing April 16, 1997

Alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) problems are democratic: they cross all educational, ethnic, economic lines.

Prevention education begins at home, and is supported in the schools with AODA, Safety and Wellness Curriculum

Besides parents, teachers are the most significant people in the lives of children

Citizens in our communities identify schools as where they want to receive prevention education

Community and parent surveys rate parent satisfaction with school-based alcohol and drug prevention efforts very high

Hamilton AWARE pulls all the stakeholders together to address the alcohol and other drug issue efficiently, comprehensively

- Schools facilitate school community alcohol and other drug prevention task forces
example: Hamilton AWARE
- Schools unite area communities
example: Lisbon, Butler, Sussex, Colgate, Lannon, Pewaukee & Menomonee Falls
- Schools are the heart of every community
- **Schools are where the youth are**
- Schools are where parents turn
- Schools provide parent training, consultation, referrals services
- Schools provide education, screening, referral, follow up services for students
 - Alcohol use was down in our last survey
 - Kids drinking and driving rate is down
 - Kids riding with friends who have been drinking is down
 - More students are actively providing leadership in the area of drug prevention
 - We identify kids who need help and refer to community agencies

Current grant monies allow us to support positive, successful Student Programming:

Student Retreats: Green Bean Campaign
Students Respecting Students Campaign
Teen Dance at the local Teen Center
Adopt A Senior Program
Tree of Life Program
Anti-Smoking Activities
Teacher Training
Material, computer software, to support the curriculum

Parent To Parent Classes
Hamilton AWARE brochure "What Every Parent Should Know" about AODA
Coordination of "Work Service Day" with local churches
Annual Red Ribbon Campaigns

Please support drug education in your schools. Please do not destroy the coordinated system program they we have diligently created in the interest of Wisconsin youth and their families. It takes time and effort to develop trust and good prevention programming. **Please consider my presentation as rationale for keeping School AODA Funding at DPI. Keep grant dollars together to assure coordination. Thank you.**

Presented by: Paula Crandall Decker, MSSW
Hamilton AWARE Chairperson

Phone (414) 246-1803

April 16, 1997

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Hello, my name is Anh Ly and I am a student at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. I am here today to urge you to appropriate money in the budget for the academic advising initiative for the UW system. Quality academic advising is an essential input towards an education at UW-Madison. With the numbers that the UW-Madison campus has, in terms of people, class options, schools and colleges, pre-requisites and requirements, it is difficult and confusing to know for certain if you, as a student, are on the correct path towards a degree in your major. For this reason, students require competent and qualified advisors in sufficient numbers. From personal experience, I have found there are just not enough advisors to go around. I am an undergraduate political science major and I know that there is only one undergraduate political science advisor for some nine hundred or so undergraduate political science majors. There is an absurd waiting list to make an appointment. If were to make an appointment today, I probably could not get in to see the advisor for months. That is just unacceptable. Being able to get "in and out" in four years requires that I know what classes I need to take and when I need to take them for my major. That is part of the job of an advisor. Better academic advising would assure that I can receive my degree most efficiently and that I can, therefore, become a productive and active member of society as soon as possible. Once again, I strongly encourage you to consider fully funding the UW system in the budget, especially allotting money for the academic advising initiative. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Anh B. Ly
727 Chadbourne
420 N Park Street
Madison WI 53706

- WFT COUNCILS:
- Graduate Assistants
 - Higher Ed
 - K-12
 - PSRP
 - State Employees
 - WTCS

Joint Finance Committee Testimony

1997-99 Biennial Budget (SB77/AB100)

by

Mary Ann Braithwaite, President, Wisconsin Federation of Teachers

Wednesday, April 16, 1977

Introduction

My name is Mary Ann Braithwaite. I am the President of the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers. We represent 15,000 professional public employees in Wisconsin—K-12, Technical College and UW faculty and staff, UW teaching and graduate assistants, and the vast majority of professional state employees—from crime lab analysts to researchers to the DNR staffers who protect our clean air and water.

Because other WFT members and staff are registered to testify on UW and several state employee issues, I will focus my testimony on the Technical College System; Choice and Vouchers in the K-12 system; and three state agencies—WERC, DER, and the State of Wisconsin Investment Board—which cut across the lines and affect all our members.

WTCS

W2

For adults who are inexperienced in working on a regular basis, direct work experience is a key to achieving self sufficiency and we agree it is good public policy to emphasize work for individuals receiving public assistance. However,

- Employment and income are directly related to educational attainment
- The work world is becoming increasingly skill oriented
- Significant numbers of welfare recipients do not have the education required for skilled jobs
- Businesses are operating in a highly competitive environment and are reluctant to hire untested workers
- Minimum or near minimum wage jobs with poor benefits frequently are insufficient to lift families out of poverty

In order for W-2 to succeed, an educational component must be added. Hours spent in class plus two hours of study time for every hour spent in class should be allowed to meet the work requirement of W-2.

- **General aids**

WFT supports increasing the WTCS budget 4.5% annually; rather than the 1% increase offered by the Governor. General WTCS aid has remained frozen for the last three fiscal years, resulting in increased pressure on the property tax.

Youth options

WFT supports the youth option proposal, but we want to remind you of the importance of maintaining cost neutrality for the high schools, technical colleges and the students and their families. The object must be the best interest of the student—gaming the system for institutional financial advantage should never become a factor.

K-12

Public School choice

WFT strongly supports the establishment of a statewide public school choice program, as Governor Thompson proposes, on a space available basis. We recognize that only a small percentage of Wisconsin's students will ever take advantage of public school choice, but for a few it will be wonderful opportunity. As designed, it should be a program where everyone wins, no one loses. Clearly safeguards need to be put in place to avoid discrimination of any type, to not have choice become a tool for sports star recruiting, and other problems. But if one district has a program in Japanese, has space available, why shouldn't interested students in the area, but in other public school districts, be able to avail themselves of this opportunity?

Charter Schools

WFT opposes all the modifications of Wisconsin's charter school program included in the budget bill. We support the current language regarding establishment of charter schools that are instrumentalities of existing school districts. These programs have barely had time to get up and running, and some unexpected consequences have already occurred.

Let's give the current experiment enough time to figure out what works and what doesn't, rather than assume that any change from the status quo will automatically be an improvement.

Milwaukee private/parochial school voucher program

WFT opposes all aspects of the religious school voucher program, and we hope that the U. S. Supreme Court declares this issue unconstitutional once and for all, and we can get the focus back on making public education better.

State government operations

WERC and DER

WFT opposes the proposed staff reductions at the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission and the Department of Employment Relations. They have insufficient staff currently and this proposal would only make things worse. This year, for example, DER will be representing the State of Wisconsin in bargaining its first contract with the Public Defenders, a WFT affiliate. Perhaps there might be a short term advantage to us in having DER understaffed, but in the type of collective bargaining we hope takes place, we need DER to be fully informed of the issues and certainly we want them to be able to crunch numbers ASAP. What possible advantage could there be to eliminating an MIS position? Does DER plan to contract out collective bargaining?

SWIB

WFT supports the State of Wisconsin Investment Board's request for an increase in the budget to \$5.4 million, all from program revenue, to upgrade their information systems, up from the Governor's recommendation of \$3.5 million. SWIB has already shared with you their most recent cost information, and we urge you to pay close attention to it.

Please remember that all the funds to run SWIB are program revenue. To us, SWIB's program revenue is our members' pension money. We want it spent wisely. Excess spending means either increased contributions from participants and employers or lower pensions to annuitants. We watch this money closely.

We are convinced that SWIB's information system proposal is well thought out, a good use of our members' pension money, and a sound investment that we all hope will lead to lower costs, better information and higher pensions in the future.





**WI RSVP Staff
Association Inc.**

ADVOCAP RSVP
Oshkosh
(414) 725-2791

Brown County RSVP
Green Bay
(414) 435-1101

Coulee Region RSVP
LaCrosse
(608) 785-0500

Interfaith RSVP
Milwaukee
(414) 931-9777

Manitowoc RSVP
Manitowoc
(414) 683-4504

Northeast RSVP
Rhinelander
(715) 369-1919

Northwest RSVP
Ashland
(715) 682-6502

Portage County RSVP
Stevens Point
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RSVP of Dane
County, Inc., Madison
(608) 238-7787

RSVP of Kenosha
Kenosha
(414) 658-3508

RSVP of Racine
County - Racine
(414) 637-7575

RSVP of Rock
County, Inc., Beloit
(608) 362-9593

RSVP of Walworth
County - Elkhorn
(414) 741-3159

RSVP of
Waukesha County
Waukesha
(414) 544-9559

Superior/Douglas
RSVP - Superior
(715) 394-4425

Western Dairyland
RSVP
Independence
(715) 985-2391

Wisconsin Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs

You Can See Us Working!

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides opportunities for people age 55 and over to find meaningful involvement in their communities through volunteer service. RSVP involves older adults in service that matches their personal interests and utilizes their skills and lifelong experiences to benefit the entire community.

RSVP is part of the federal Corporation for National Service, National Senior Service Corps.

Wisconsin is served by 16 RSVP projects covering 28 counties. The Wisconsin Staff Association believes **RSVP needs to be a statewide program with a presence in each county.**

This program is important because:

1. RSVP volunteer services in the state of Wisconsin reduce the cost of providing human services to people of all ages. Currently over **10,000 volunteers provide over 1,200,000 hours of service each year.** Independent Sector, a coalition of non-profit groups, estimates each hour of volunteer time is worth \$12.84 (1995). Thus, **the monetary value of this service is over \$15 million.**
2. In Wisconsin, there are 1,064,747 people age 55 and over. By the year 2000 that number is expected to increase 8% to 1,153,642 (Dept. of Administration, Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations, Demographic Services Center).
3. Where RSVP does not operate, an enormous amount of skill, knowledge and time in the retired population is untapped. The state has an opportunity to utilize a cost-effective program like RSVP to capitalize on this resource and to augment services not provided through federal, state and local government funds.
4. Productive engagement and strong social networks contribute to prolonged mental and physical health in older adults. A 25 year National Institute of Mental Health study found that "highly organized" activity is the single strongest predictor, other than not smoking, of longevity and vitality (Marc Freedman, Seniors in National and Community Service, April, 1994).
5. State and local governmental agencies are recognizing the value of older volunteers and utilizing them in rapidly increasing numbers. Examples of these agencies include: Department of Natural Resources, Motor Vehicle Department, municipal governments and police and sheriff's departments throughout the state.

For additional information on the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, contact one of the RSVP programs listed or RSVP Staff Association President Marti Sowka (715-346-1401).

Wisconsin Senior Companion Programs

This program is important because:

1. Life expectancy for Americans in 1900 was 47 years and by 1990 it had increased to 75 years. Sixty-eight percent of those served by the Senior Companion Program are frail elderly over the age of 80.
2. The average cost of nursing home care in the United States exceeds \$30,000 annually, while the estimated cost of a Senior Companion volunteer serving 20 hour per week for an entire year is \$3,600.
3. The primary function of the Senior Companion Program is to provide service to the homebound frail elderly. The program's main objectives are:
 - ▶ to prevent premature institutionalization of homebound elderly
 - ▶ to develop opportunities for older adults to continue contributing to their communities, thereby enriching their retirement years
 - ▶ to maintain a sense of dignity and self-worth
5. The only barrier to expanding this immensely popular and proven program is the limited funding available.

For additional information on Senior Companion Programs, contact Mattie Payne, SCP Director in Milwaukee at 414-272-5600 ext 2553 . .

RSVP/SCP
Request for \$837,500 Increase in
State Supplemental Funding
(DHSS Statute 46.85)
January, 1997

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Current Status of RSVP Projects

Number of Projects: 16 serving 28 counties in Wisconsin

Federal funding: \$671,180

State funding: \$413,854

Other funding: \$600,000

According to reports from Wisconsin's RSVP projects, additional state funding could generate 780 new volunteers and 100,000 additional hours of service. New or expanded intergenerational initiatives could include: school tutors, BABES (Beginning Alcohol and other Addictions Basic Education Studies) puppet program, and Triad (crime prevention). New or expanded long term care initiatives could include: peer counseling, telephone reassurance, guardianship, home delivered meals, friendly visiting and in-home chore service.

RSVP Additional Request

1. Current Projects:

\$15,000 per project (16 projects)	\$240,000
\$ 7,500 per county in multi-county projects (4 projects, 3 counties each x \$22,500)	\$ 90,000

2. Expansion-current projects into contiguous counties:
(long range goal of expansion to all counties)
10 counties added at cost of \$20,000 per county

\$200,000

3. Expansion-add 2 new projects at cost of \$40,000 each

\$ 80,000

RSVP total: \$610,000

2/17/17

Senior Companion Program

Current Status of SCP Projects

Senior Companions are low income persons, age 60 and over who receive a stipend of \$2.45 per hour and volunteer 20 hours per week with homebound older adults. They provide person-to-person services to assist people to remain in independent living situations and reduce the need for being institutionalized.

State funding:

- \$87,346 Supports 16 state companions plus 60 federal companions (total 76) serving up to 400 clients throughout Milwaukee County
- \$10,000 Supports 41 senior companions with travel needs at Great Lakes Intertribal Council

SCP Additional Request

1. Current Projects:

- Add 10 companions @ \$3,500 each to two existing projects (Milwaukee Project and Great Lakes Intertribal Council) (\$3,500 x 10 x 2 projects) \$ 70,000
- Add 5 companions to non-federal project in Janesville (\$3,500 x 5) \$ 17,500

2. Expansion-current projects into counties with greatest need (i.e. per cent of low income older adults who qualify to be companions plus client population)

- Add 20 companions @ \$3,500 each to two existing projects (Milwaukee Project and Great Lakes Intertribal Council) (\$3,500 x 20 x 2 projects) \$140,000

SCP total: \$227,500

Grand Total (RSVP and SCP): \$837,500

GEOFFREY BANTA
SHERIFF

JERRY FREDRICKSON
UNDERSHERIFF

COUNTY OF VERNON

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COURTHOUSE - DUNLAP STREET
VIROQUA, WIS. 54665

APRIL 16, 1997

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS GEOFFREY BANTA. I CURRENTLY HOLD THE POSITION OF SHERIFF IN VERNON COUNTY AND HAVE HELD THAT POSITION SINCE 1970. I AM ALSO THE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE WISCONSIN SHERIFF'S AND DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION AND CURRENTLY HOLD THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THIS ASSOCIATION. I HAVE WORKED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON A VARIETY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR MYSELF AND OTHERS TO GIVE YOU OUR VIEWS ON THE TRUTH IN SENTENCING LAW THAT IS BEING PROPOSED.

I MUST SAY THAT AFTER READING THIS PURPOSED CHANGE IN THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES, I FOUND IT EXCITING. THE CRIMINAL SOCIETY WILL NOW KNOW, IF THIS BILL BECOMES A REALITY, THAT CRIMINALS ARE GOING TO PAY THEIR RIGHTFUL DEBT TO SOCIETY. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE VICTIM AND OTHERS AFFECTED BY THEIR CRIMINAL ACTS WILL HAVE THE PEACE OF MIND THAT THIS PERSON WILL NOT BE BACK INTO THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AFTER SERVING A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TIME.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATES CRIMES. D.A.'S PROSECUTE THE CRIMINAL. JUDGES, AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION, GIVE OUT A SENTENCE THAT HE OR SHE THINKS FITS THE CRIME, ONLY TO HAVE THE CRIMINAL SET FREE AFTER SERVING ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TIME BY PAROLE BOARDS WHO DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH OUR ELECTION PROCESS.

TO GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES, WE ARRESTED A PERSON FOR BURGLARY TO A DRUG STORE IN OUR COUNTY. THIS WAS NOT THIS PERSON'S FIRST ARREST FOR DRUG TYPE OFFENSES. AFTER A JURY TRIAL, THIS MAN WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS FOR BAIL JUMPING, 8 YEARS PROBATION WITH A 5 YEAR STAYED SENTENCE ON BURGLARY CHARGES AND SENTENCED TO A 2 YEAR STAYED SENTENCE FOR POSSESSION OF BURGLARY TOOLS. THIS MAN WAS DELIVERED TO PRISON TO SERVE A 3 YEAR SENTENCE. WE WERE NOTIFIED IN LESS THAN 3 MONTHS THAT THIS MAN WAS GOING TO BE RELEASED BACK INTO SOCIETY ON THE DIVISION OF INTENSIVE SANCTIONS PROGRAM.

THE SECOND CASE WAS A PERSON WHO WAS SENTENCED FOR SEVERAL BURGLARIES TO SERVE 8 YEARS IN OUR STATE PRISON SYSTEM. WE WERE NOTIFIED IN LESS THAN 10 MONTHS THAT THIS PERSON WAS GOING TO BE RELEASED BACK INTO OUR COMMUNITY ON THE DIVISION OF INTENSIVE SANCTIONS PROGRAM.

HOW CAN WE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THIS TO THE VICTIM? WE CAN'T.

THE VICTIM AND I BELIEVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT CARE WHAT IT IS GOING TO COST THEM TO KEEP THE CRIMINAL FACTION OUT OF SOCIETY. THERE IS A NEED FOR A CHANGE AND I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED TRUTH IN SENTENCING WILL GIVE SOCIETY THE SENSE OF SECURITY THAT THEY DESERVE FROM OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

I STRONGLY URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS CHANGE.

Volunteers are needed, There are never enough !
 Each has their own talent that could be of great use and help, no matter what their background or education or lack of education, we can use each others' help
 These are "unlimited treasures." Both, We, and They need each other !

WHERE ARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED?

Volunteers are needed as standby's for Nutrition, help out on various ways for Seniors' Card Games, and Senior Gatherings, Newsletters, making copies, etc. visits to people that can't get out , write letters or read to them, or just be a kind person they could talk to.

Then there are care givers, shoppers, or be able to take them out for a walk.

If a volunteer could play a piano, keyboard, guitar, concertina, violin, or even sing with them, a group of Sr.'s could be gathered to-gether for a little of their own oldfashioned music, which they would enjoy and bring happy memories back to them.

Also, Daycares, and Preschools, and Kindergartners would be happy to have some "Grandmothers" visit them once a twice a week, where "Grams" could wrap their arms around each child that looks for just that "Little Bit O' Love".

That type of volunteering would make so much difference to our children, They are Our Future, and spreading Love, Compassion, should be our goal, for the State, city and county, to see that there are all sorts of volunteers, to help spread the good work.

The Hospice is another way a volunteer could help, by paying a visit to the patient and giving comfort to the family. The hospitals are another source where one can be of comfort to a young or old patient.

The volunteers reward would be a special feeling of being looked for, and accepted for what we could do. It wouldn't matter that we are lame, or not as strong as we used to be, or have to use a walker, or cane, they would love us for reaching out to them and giving them some comfort, and love, and maybe showing them the way, when they need direction, people they could trust.

The volunteers that do help, give us hope for tomorrow and love for a lifetime !

ANNA Cerkoney
 724 West Center Street
 Whitewater, WI 53190

RSVP/WALWORTH COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Box 1005
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

Legilators of Wisconsin
State Capitol
Madison Wi. 53701

ARTHUR K MEHREN
434 E. North St.
Whitewater, Wi. 53190

April 15, 1997

Dear Legislators:

This octogenarian has been doing volunteer work for the past 16 years. Service to the elderly and not so elderly has been rewarding to me and very economical for the state. Peer counseling for a period of 12 years certainly helped extend the limited budgets under which the work was done.

Doing tax returns, organizing recreational and social activities has been beneficial to the recipients as well as to the volunteer. It has helped me keep my mind active. Physically I know that I am deteriorating, but so long as the spirit is willing the flesh shall continue.

However, limited income does not permit me to do a lot without some mileage compensation.

Sincerely Yours,



Arthur K. Mehren

RSVP/WALWORTH COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Box 1005
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

What RSVP Means to Me

I served as a member of RSVP for approximately six years. Volunteering at a Nursing Home reading, showing movies, playing cards & listening to stories of their lives.

I've volunteered for the student book program where young people interview you and then write an article on what they heard you say. The enjoyment from this comes twice, once in the interview and second when the article comes out, these are not necessarily the same but enjoyable.

I'm on my fifth or sixth year at Old World Wisconsin. I've served in several areas and currently at our new exhibit - Caldwell Farmers Club Hall. This is used as a training center and we introduce 2000 plus school children annually to games that were played in the late 1800's. They also meet young settlers such as calves, pigs, chickens, and lambs. We also show them some of the tools that were used to construct and maintain something as simple as a milking stool.

Recently a number of us assisted in a fund raising effort with MSD thru their Jail House Program in Elkhorn. The event raised over \$20,000 - a record for a town our size.

C. J. Greg Jouppi
W5524 Lake Shore Dr.
Elkhorn WI 53121

Clair Wiederholt

5746 Weis Road
Waunakee, WI 53597
(608) 849-8438
April 16, 1997

Senator Bryan Burke and Representative Scott Jensen
Chairs, Joint Finance Committee and Committee Members
Wisconsin State Legislature
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

RE: Women's Health Initiative

Dear Senator Burke and Representative Jensen and Committee Members:

As a husband to a wonderful woman and father of three daughters, I want Wisconsin women to have the best in health care. However, I believe the Governor's Woman's Health Initiative is misdirected. He wishes to spend my tax dollars to promote the health of the gender that already is healthier and longer lived.

Men already die seven years earlier than women in the U.S. and suffer nearly every major ailment with greater frequency than women. Men suffer more diseases of the heart and die more frequently from every type of cancer with the exception of breast cancer. Additionally men suffer respiratory diseases, pneumonia, influenza, liver disease, diabetes, and pulmonary diseases at higher rates than women.

When we look at mental health, things are similarly to men's disadvantage. Men suffer substantially higher rates of suicide. They are more likely to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals, become alcoholics, be homeless, drop out of high school, and have higher death rates after their spouse dies than women.

However, despite this appalling differential in male-female health and longevity, the federal government already is spending two dollars on research into women's health problems for every one dollar spent on men's health care. In one recent year the National Institute of Health spent 13.5 percent of its total research budget on diseases unique to women, while spending only 6.5 percent of its total budget on diseases unique to men. The remainder was spent on non-gender-specific problems.

For example, in 1993, 46,000 women died of breast cancer and a roughly comparable 35,000 men died of prostate cancer. At the same time the National Cancer Institute spent \$213 million on breast-cancer research and \$51 million on prostate-cancer research. Though there is rough equality in these gender-specific cancers, breast cancer research received four times the funding prostate cancer received.

It makes no sense to invest Wisconsin tax dollars augmenting the health of the group of Wisconsinites that are healthiest already and on who the federal government is already outspending on health care research by a 2-to-1 margin. In my family we focus our resources on caring for the child who is least healthy. For my wife and I to spend extra dollars on doctor visits, preventative care, and vitamins for our healthiest child while ignoring our weakest and sickliest would be neglectful and unethical.

I ask this committee to divide this \$4 million equally between the sexes or to eliminate it entirely from the budget.

I enclose a table for U.S. Bureau of the Census which compares the frequency with which men and women suffer the major health problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clair Wiederholt". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Clair" being more prominent than the last name "Wiederholt".

Clair Wiederholt
Men's Studies Instructor, Madison Area Technical College, Madison,
Wisconsin

TABLE 2-2. Death Rates Per 100,000 Population by Selected Causes and Sex

YEAR AND CHARACTERISTIC	TOTAL ¹	DISEASES OF HEART	MALIGNANT NEO-PLASMS	ACCIDENTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS	CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES	CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASES ²	PNEUMONIA AND FLU	SUICIDE	CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE, CIRRHOSIS	DIABETES MELLITUS
Male: 1960, age-adjusted.....	949.3	375.5	143.0	73.9	85.4	(3)	35.0	16.6	14.5	12.0
1970, age-adjusted.....	931.6	348.5	157.4	80.7	73.2	(3)	28.8	17.3	20.2	13.5
1980, age-adjusted.....	777.2	280.4	165.5	64.0	44.9	26.1	17.4	18.0	17.1	10.2
1982, age-adjusted.....	733.1	264.4	164.8	55.2	39.2	25.5	15.2	18.3	14.9	9.8
1983, age-adjusted ⁴	725.3	260.4	164.3	52.9	37.7	27.0	16.2	18.2	14.3	9.9
15-24 years old.....	140.4	3.2	6.6	74.8	.9	.5	.7	19.4	.1	.3
25-34 years old.....	174.6	11.6	12.8	62.8	2.4	.6	1.8	25.1	4.1	1.6
35-44 years old.....	265.8	60.6	41.1	49.9	7.4	1.6	3.7	21.9	14.3	4.3
45-54 years old.....	694.5	255.1	179.8	49.8	24.4	11.2	8.8	23.9	33.8	10.0
55-64 years old.....	1,725.6	690.6	524.2	54.9	65.9	59.9	23.7	25.8	50.7	26.7
65-74 years old.....	3,885.4	1,607.6	1,088.5	70.4	212.7	210.8	73.6	31.2	55.7	60.8
75-84 years old.....	8,539.1	3,618.0	1,823.3	145.4	720.3	479.6	291.1	49.1	45.9	126.2
85 years old and over.....	17,977.4	8,228.0	2,385.8	349.9	1,820.2	655.7	1,136.3	53.0	27.2	196.8
Female: 1960, age-adjusted.....	590.6	205.7	111.2	26.8	74.7	(3)	21.8	5.0	6.9	15.0
1970, age-adjusted.....	532.5	175.2	108.8	28.2	60.8	(3)	16.7	6.8	9.8	14.4
1980, age-adjusted.....	432.6	140.3	109.2	21.8	37.6	8.9	9.8	5.4	7.9	10.0
1982, age-adjusted.....	411.2	132.5	109.5	18.9	33.2	9.8	8.0	5.4	6.7	9.3
1983, age-adjusted ⁴	411.5	132.3	109.9	18.7	31.8	10.9	8.8	5.2	6.6	9.8
15-24 years old.....	50.7	2.0	4.7	21.7	.8	.5	.6	4.3	.2	.4
25-34 years old.....	68.9	5.0	12.9	15.6	2.0	.6	1.1	6.5	1.9	1.3
35-44 years old.....	140.2	18.6	50.0	14.2	7.2	1.7	1.9	7.6	6.0	3.0
45-54 years old.....	386.0	79.6	165.0	16.4	21.3	8.7	4.7	9.0	15.4	8.6
55-64 years old.....	923.8	262.2	371.6	20.6	50.3	31.7	10.8	8.4	23.5	26.4
65-74 years old.....	2,092.3	777.0	628.7	35.1	158.6	84.8	33.7	7.3	25.1	62.4
75-84 years old.....	5,200.0	2,341.7	918.1	82.7	612.7	131.2	155.3	6.4	23.4	132.3
85 years old and over.....	14,010.6	6,967.8	1,252.8	219.4	1,950.6	166.5	746.0	5.1	14.9	212.0

¹ Includes other causes, not shown separately.² Includes allied conditions.³ Data not available on a comparable basis with later years.⁴ Includes persons under 15 years old, not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1987:76.

SCING

South Central Instructional Network Group

626 E. Slifer St.

PO Box 564

Portage WI 53901

(608) 742 - 8814 ext. 283

MEMO

TO: Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Joan Spillner, Director, SCING Distance Learning Network
RE: TEACH Wisconsin - written testimony
DATE: April 16, 1997

SCING is a full motion, distance education network consisting of 19 educational institutions in central Wisconsin. I am submitting this testimony for the SCING network.

The members of this network are extremely excited about the TEACH Wisconsin initiative. As a pioneer in full motion distance education and currently the largest full motion network in Wisconsin we are very supportive of Governor Thompson's TEACH Wisconsin program.

I would like to highlight parts of this proposal that we deem a significant step toward advancing education into the 21st century.

➤The \$50 million annually being provided to school districts in loans for upgrading electrical and network wiring is a necessity. There is a definite need for older buildings that have insufficient electrical capacity and/or lack of network wiring to be upgraded to support today's technology.

➤The block grants will be a welcome change to most districts. School districts have found it difficult, if not impossible, to support technology with local dollars.

➤Regional support of training programs is essential to making this entire program a success! I strongly believe that when local school boards are faced with making tough budgeting decisions, the first thing that typically will get cut is the training programs for staff members. Having regional support for training programs is a cost effective and very efficient manner to involve teachers throughout Wisconsin in training programs that will allow them to integrate technology into their instructional practices. This type of support will allow the CESA's to offer high quality, ongoing professional development that will help teachers in their efforts in the use of technology in their classrooms. Being able to provide this service

TEACH WISCONSIN - Written Testimony

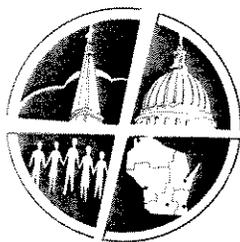
Page 2

regionally assures that each district in Wisconsin will have their needs met. This is a very key component of the TEACH program. Without the ability to train teachers on integrating technology and using it as a tool, TEACH Wisconsin would be headed for failure. I applaud Governor Thompson on this much needed service!

➤ Technical Support staff placed regionally is another benefit of the TEACH Wisconsin program. The CESA's located throughout Wisconsin work very closely with the school districts within their region. This will assure that local districts will receive the technical assistance and training that will fit their specific needs. Allowing the CESA's to hire one person for technical assistance and one person to coordinate training related to educational technology, will provide some of the necessary personnel to meet the needs of individual districts within each region.

➤ The final point I would like to make deals with the \$250 month line charge for DS3 and T1 connections. This is funding that has been needed in the state for the past five years. We are very supportive of this initiative. Allowing districts to join networks for \$3000 per year (as compared to \$23,000 per year most SCING districts are paying) would be very beneficial. This is a tremendous boost for districts not involved with this technology to jump in! This does however, raise the question of those pioneering schools that took a risk and got involved in distance learning before this initiative. The current SCING districts decided the risk was worth it because it was "good for kids" and we saw no financial support coming down from the state or federal government. The original SCING members have paved the road to the information highway for those that come later. I would hope that some type of financial support would be made to these districts.

I would like to end this testimony by saying thank you. Thank you for making educational technology a priority for Wisconsin's schools. This proposal will also allow Wisconsin to advance the federal goals for technology in education, which will make Wisconsin a lead runner in the race to the information superhighway!



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703 • 608/257-0004 • FAX 608/257-0376

TO: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: John Huebscher, Executive Director
DATE: April 16, 1997
RE: Budget Issues of Interest to the WCC

In reviewing the Governor's Budget Recommendations, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference wishes to express support for a number of initiatives included in the budget bill and express concerns and reservations about one item, **community aids**.

We also invite you to consider five issues related to the Wisconsin Works program.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

WCC urges you to support the following items:

Assisted Living. WCC endorses budget provisions which expand a number of ongoing programs to enable elderly and person with disabilities to live in their own homes or in the community as opposed to nursing homes or other institutions. To the extent possible, we urge you to add funds that can further reduce waiting lists for the programs such as the Community Options Program and the Community Integration Program.

Foster Care and Adoption. WCC supports inclusion of additional funding for foster care and adoption by providing for voluntary training for foster parents of special needs children and about \$5.3 million in additional funding for payments to foster parents and parents who adopt children with special needs.

Insurance Subsidies for Persons with HIV. Another worthwhile feature of the budget is a provision extending a program to provide health insurance premium subsidies to persons with HIV. The budget increases the maximum income eligibility from 200% of poverty to 300% although those whose income exceeds 200% of poverty must pay a portion of the premium. Eligibility continues even if the person is eligible for Medicare.

Women's Health Initiative. We commend the Governor's decision to include \$6 million over the next two years to fund a women's health initiative. As women are more likely to lack health insurance than men, we believe this will address a serious health concern among women of child bearing age and give such women one less reason to choose abortion should they become pregnant.

Health Insurance Coverage for All Children in Grades K-12. We strongly support the directive to DHFS to explore the possibility of creating a program to provide health insurance to all children in grades K-12 in Wisconsin and to report recommendations by July 1, 1998. This initiative, if properly developed, will bring us one step closer to the goal of universal coverage for health insurance, a goal of the Catholic bishops of the United States since 1919.

AN AREA OF SERIOUS CONCERN - FEWER DOLLARS FOR COMMUNITY AIDS

Community aids is taking a cut from the current base for the first time in recent memory. WCC opposes this cut for several reasons.

It aggravates an imbalance between community and institutional responses to human services. While this major funding source for community programs takes a cut, the budget actually increases MA reimbursement rates for institutional providers. While exact parity may not be possible, we believe the effectiveness of community based services warrants more equal treatment than the budget provides for.

Services for populations with disabilities will be especially impacted. While community aids funds a broad range of programs at the county and local level, not all operate on the same legal or political footing. Certain services, such as child abuse and neglect services and some mental health programs are often provided pursuant to court orders. These will be a priority for counties regardless of funding levels. Other programs, such as domestic abuse shelters, runaway services and services for persons with disabilities are likely to be more under funded if community aids funding is not kept even with inflation.

The budget replaces \$31 million in GPR support for community aids with federal TANF (welfare) block grant dollars. This places the financial base for community aids at serious risk in future years. This may seem technical but it has important long term implications for the health of the program. The budget "backs out" over \$30 million in GPR funding each year of the biennium. Hence, the state GPR support for community aids is reduced, not by 3%, but by 15%.

Furthermore, the federal funds that replace the GPR come from the federal TANF block grant. TANF is the primary source of funds for the Wisconsin Works program. While low W-2 caseloads may permit the use of TANF funds for community aids in this

biennium, a recession or other events that lead to higher W-2 caseloads will create powerful pressure to divert the TANF funds from community aids. As that happens, the legislature is likely to find it easier to cut services than add GPR to the community aids program.

For all these reasons, we urge that the legislature restore some of the GPR commitment to community aids so at the very least, the program is held at its current base level of funding.

WISCONSIN WORKS ISSUES

The WCC calls your attention to five areas in which the Wisconsin works program (W-2) should be modified to better meet the needs of our state's poor families.

Compensation for Community Service Jobs (CSJ's) and Transitional Placements (TP's). We applaud the Governor for increasing the amount of the monthly grants for CSJ's and Transitional placements. However, we urge you to redefine this compensation as wages so those persons in these slots may be eligible for the earned income tax credit.

Last year, the Fiscal Bureau projected that fully seventy five percent of those in the current AFDC program are slated to enter work slots in Community Service Jobs or Transitional Placements. These are the families most likely to be "worse off" under W-2 in its current form than under the AFDC system, in large part because these grants fail to capture all of the federal income support they could.

WCC is not among those who believe certain jobs are menial and lacking in dignity. Work has dignity because it is done by human beings. But dignity also derives from the compensation provided to the people who perform the work. ***Increasing these grants is essential to providing these families with an adequate income and to convey respect due to those who engage in work related activities.***

Expanded education and training options. Those W-2 participants and other working poor for whom higher education is the most promising short term route to self-sufficiency should be able to participate in certain higher education programs.

In their statement on welfare reform, Reforming Welfare by Valuing Families, the Catholic Bishops of Wisconsin called for welfare reform that discerns differences among poor people and an end to a "one size fits all" approach. While one can cite studies that show education and training does is not always effective, there are nonetheless poor and working poor persons for whom these programs offer the most cost effective approach.

We note that some legislators are pursuing a "Low Income Workers Grant Program" that would permit about 1600 people to participate in higher education programs if they had worked for at least six months and had at least three references, including one from their employer testifying that they have career promise in their chosen course of study. We believe this is the type of discerning program that will move more poor people to independence.

All families who play by the rules and meet eligibility requirements should be guaranteed access to W-2 services. There is a difference between changing the rules and saying "even if you are prepared to play by the new rules, we will not help you. On the one hand, W-2's enabling legislation specifically states that not all who are eligible are assured of services. At the same time, the Policy Document for Pilot Counties, the document developed by DWD to assist county W-2 agencies, states that "those who are eligible for and need assistance will receive assistance" (Page I-3).

If such a commitment can be made in the policy manual, it can and should be made in the law. Otherwise, families with poor children may be denied access to the necessities of life by the arbitrary decision of a local agency or because the agency has run out of money in a given fiscal year.

Basic needs of immigrants and refugees and childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50. Wisconsin should provide a state-funded program for immigrants and refugees with children as well as other childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50 who are no longer eligible for federal food stamps and SSI.

Immigrants and refugees are especially vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous individuals. They are also placed at much greater risk of hunger and exposure due to provisions in the federal welfare law that deny them benefits for programs such as food stamps, medical assistance and SSI. It is essential that efforts to repair the safety net include some provision to restore basic supports to these families.

As for other adults without children, they too are left with no safety net by the federal law changes. Two years ago, when the state abolished its general assistance program for single adults, one of the justifications for that decision was the fact that federal food stamps would still be available. In 1997, this last vestige of federal support is gone. State action is necessary to restore at least some help for such people, most of whom are women.

Restore a fair hearing requirement. In order to assure fair treatment for all, families should have access to a fair hearing process, including an appeal process, prior to being sanctioned for noncompliance with W-2 regulations. There are signs that one reason for the significant drop in caseloads has been

aggressive use of sanctions by county caseworkers. Too often, it has been determined that families were sanctioned or denied benefits in violation of existing guidelines.

Restoring a fair hearing will assure that poor families with children are not denied W-2 services for other than good reasons.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - Prison Chaplains

We request that you add \$154,800 to the budget to fund four additional chaplain positions, one each at Racine, Oshkosh, Black River Falls and the Dodge Correctional Institution in Waupun. The positions at the first two institutions were included in the DOC budget request but denied by DOA. We are recommending those positions be funded as well as the positions at Black River Falls and the Dodge Corrections Institute.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) recommends that there be one chaplain for every 500 prisoners. The chaplain to prisoner ratio at Jackson and Dodge Correctional already far exceeds that. While both prisons are expanding their populations, neither has provisions for additional chaplains.

Dodge Correctional has two chaplains to serve 1,300 male inmates. However, it is scheduled to expand to 1700.

Dodge is also the infirmary for the state correction system. Hence, it receives prisoners with chronic illnesses and those who are dying. This population requires intense chaplaincy work, as patients who are physically immobile can not go to the chapel for worship or other spiritual services. These services must be brought to the infirmary, which is labor-intensive for the chaplains. Dying prisoners have intense spiritual needs, which also is very time-consuming for chaplains.

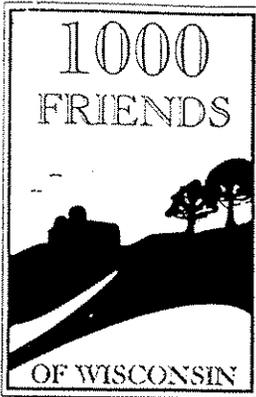
Dodge is now also an intake facility for female prisoners, making it the only prison that has to manage both male and females. The task of insuring that female prisoners are provided the same worship opportunities and spiritual care as male prisoners is also very labor intensive.

The Jackson Correctional facility, which has one chaplain for 700 prisoners, is expected to expand to nearly 1,000 prisoners. In addition to this growth, Jackson's rural location creates unique problems for its lone chaplain. The prison's rural location serves to isolate prisoners from the support and visits from family, friends and home church groups and the chaplain is expected to provide more spiritual support than at other institutions. Moreover, the area's sparse population also limits the chaplain's access to local church groups, volunteers and assistance more readily available to chaplains at other prisons.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - Educational Technology

The WCC also asks that you support the request of the Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools (WANS) pertaining to educational technology. These are essential to assuring that all school children benefit from the Universal Service Fund.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our views on these issues.



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.
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