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_pt191

- Record of Comm. Proceedings … RCP
- **

Support for RED and ADD grant funding increases

Thank you for allowing me to address your participants.

I am Paul Scharfman, owner and President of Specialty Cheese Company, Inc. Our firms owns three cheese plants in Dodge county, employs fifty people and takes milk from some sixty local dairy farms. We make refrigerated natural cheeses for the Hispanic, Arab and Kosher markets as well as traditional Brick and Muenster cheeses. In addition, we are now making a new form of cheese: shelf stable cheese snacks called "Just the Cheese". I am both a member of the Dairy 2020 Board and the recently renamed PATS (Program on Agricultural Technology Studies). For those of you who don't know, that makes me eligible for mud slinging from both the left and the right.

Our firm has used both the RED and ADD grant programs. We used the RED program to help finance a product quality study for our Hispanic cheeses before we introduced them to market in 1992. As a result of the study we were able to adjust our formulations and enter the market with what are still considered to be the best tasting Hispanic cheeses anywhere.

As founding president of the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute, I used ADD grant funds to do market research. The research identified a dozen promising concepts that would be appropriate for the State's small cheese companies. Our "Just the Cheese" snacks are an outgrowth of one of those concepts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the State of Wisconsin has the opportunity to be the hotbed of innovation in the Dairy Industry worldwide. Some of you have heard me say that our challenge is not to beat the low price of California cheddar. Instead, our future lies in producing the largest number of the highest quality of specialty cheeses. We have the cheesemakers, the heritage, the high quality standards and the excellent milk supply needed to do so. The competion is not California. It is France. We should lead the world in specialty cheeses.

To do so, however, we must give our farmers and our innovators encouragement. Ten days ago I had a man by the name of Jack McCellan in

my office. He is a dairy farmer from California who sold his herd and wants to start a 1200 cow operation in Wisconsin. He's got a business plan. He's got experience. He needs to convince people to invest in his business. The only way to do so is to commission a feasibility study. That's what RED could do to help him.

What of the cheese innovators? We would like more ADD grant funding to work together to sell our cheeses. We've put together a booklet of our products, now we need to educate chefs and consumers. ADD funding could help us figure out how to do so.

But both programs are currently underfunded. We have the wonderful problem that both programs have too many good ideas coming at them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here to support increasing the funding for RED and ADD in your budget deliberations.

Specialty Cheese Company
455 S. River St
Lowell, WI
53557

414-927-3000

WISCONSIN COALITION FOR ADVOCACY

Advocacy for citizens with disabilities

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE 1997-99 BIENNIAL BUDGET
SB 77/AB 100

by
Jeffrey Spitzer-Resnick
Staff Attorney

As the staff attorney at the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, who concentrates on serving children with exceptional education needs in Wisconsin, I would like to address two key issues in the 1997-99 biennial budget.

First, it is of significant concern that, by proposing a freeze to Categorical Aids for Handicapped Education, the Governor's proposed budget essentially cuts these critical aids to school districts who are required under both federal and state law to provide an appropriate education to children with disabilities. State law designates that the maximum percentage of these costs which are allowed for reimbursement is 63%. This reimbursement percentage, however, has been declining over the past decade, which has made it extremely difficult for school districts to appropriately educate many of these children. School districts are currently reimbursed for only about 39% of their actual special education costs. This budget would reduce that percentage in each of the next two years, as the actual budget for educating an ever larger number of children with disabilities (over 10% of the student population), continues to grow.

The results of these cuts will manifest themselves in two different, and equally problematic ways. In school districts which recognize their legal obligation to provide an appropriate education to children with disabilities, they will only be able to do so, by cutting programs and services for children who do not have disabilities, which will pit parents of children without disabilities against parents of children with disabilities, in a fight which they did not create, but this budget will engender.

The second problem is that many other school districts will seek to avoid angering parents of children without disabilities, and will simply fail to provide an appropriate education to children with disabilities. This equally unfortunate scenario will result in forcing school districts and parents to spend time, money, and anxious moments going through an ever increasing number of due process hearings to fight over these scarce dollars. It will also result in a further decline in our state's ability to develop the full potential of all children with disabilities, which only means that when they leave school, our society will be forced to support these adults with disabilities through a greater strain on our health and family services budget, as well as our budget for correctional services.

Madison Office: 16 North Carroll Street, Suite 400, Madison, WI 53703 Voice & TDD 608-267-0214
Fax 608-267-0368 Toll Free 1-800-928-8778 (consumers and family members only)

Therefore, we urge the Joint Finance Committee to increase the funding of Handicapped Education by $16.5 million in FY 98 and $34 million in FY 99 simply to maintain reimbursement of special education costs at their current level of 39.3%, which is in accordance with the recommendation of the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities (WCDD) as well as the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). We also urge the Joint Finance Committee to follow the recommendation of WCDD and establish a 90% reimbursement rate of high-cost special education services and a non-recurring revenue limit exemption related to implementation of high-cost services, so high-cost children are served without forcing the sacrifices to other children as described above.

On a brighter note, we are pleased with the various proposals regarding educational technology to help bring all of our schools into the 21st century. However, it is critical that all students have access to this technology, as it comes into each school system.

Assistive technology has provided tremendous breakthroughs for children with disabilities to succeed in school, where previous efforts had often failed. When new computer systems are installed in our public schools, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with conforming state statutes, all require that when schools purchase electronic equipment, it must either currently be fully accessible, or it must be capable of becoming fully accessible.

Unfortunately, the Governor's proposed budget, is silent on the issue of the accessibility of all this new technology going into our schools, for children with disabilities. That problem can be easily corrected, by requiring that all schools ensure technological accessibility for students with disabilities upon the receipt of any funding for new technology in the schools. That way we can be sure that all students enter the 21st century together. It will also avoid costly court battles to force school districts to provide for this critical and legally required technological accessibility.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters in the budget. If any members of the committee wish to discuss these issues in more detail at a later time, please feel free to contact me.

jfctest.497

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Request for $610,000 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

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
(715) 346-1401

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

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).

REINHARD B. MEIHSNER
Manager, AM/FM/GIS Services
meihsner@fieldtech.com

WISCONSIN GAS
A WICOR COMPANY

Wisconsin Gas Company
626 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 291-6716
Fax (414) 291-7025

WISCONSIN GAS
A WICOR COMPANY

Wisconsin Gas Company
626 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Date: April 16, 1997

From: Reinhard Meihsner
Manager, AM/FM/GIS Services

Re: Governor's Budget Bill
Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB)

My name is Reinhard Meihsner. I'm representing Wisconsin Gas Company and I would like to take this opportunity to voice **objection to a policy change which has been included in the Governor's Budget. If passed, the Wisconsin Land Information Board would be eliminated and replaced with a Land Use Council. From what has been stated in the proposed budget, the goals and objectives of the Land Use Council would, in large part, duplicate what the Wisconsin Land Information Board has already gotten underway.** While there is not an objection to creating a Land Use Council, it should not be done at the expense of the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB).

As a user of land records and land information, elimination of the Wisconsin Land Information Board would have a damaging affect on a significant number of successful programs. For a variety of reasons, the Wisconsin Land Information Board should not be eliminated:

- After an incredible effort to get land modernization programs underway, elimination of the WLIB would have a severe impact on existing programs and put the program back into a study phase. Programs are already underway to improve the use of land information. This policy change would reverse that trend. This is a time when we need to get the most productivity from the private and public sector, not create more bureaucracy.

- **This is policy change which will have significant impact on a number of successful programs and should not be nested in the Governor's Budget!**

- There is not an objection to a Land Use Council, it just shouldn't be done at the expense of the Land Information Board.

As a regular user of land information, it would be tragic if the successful programs which are now underway, were hampered by the elimination of the Wisconsin Land Information Board.

April 16, 1997

Joint Finance Committee
Budget Hearing
Madison, WI

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Every day I wonder how I will be able to put myself through school: How will I pay for it? Where will that funding come from? My name is Lara Bjorkquist, and I am a first-year student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison but am originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin.

I am here speaking against the possibility for differential tuition on the University of Wisconsin campus. The potential tuition raises because of differential tuition are astronomical. As it is, I am forced to work 2 jobs during the summer in order to pay for this university, and am worried that with a tuition increase I will be forced to increase my hours worked during both the summer months as well as the school year.

Additionally, the lack of increased funding for academic advising on University of Wisconsin campuses is a concern of many. Currently, as a freshman, I am forced to wait hours in order to see my academic advisor, and there have been times when the only "advisor" I was able to convene with was another student. Apparently this practice is acceptable to the university, but I will not accept this as adequate. More advisors are needed. When further along in my studies, I will be seeing an advisor for my Political Science major. It turns out that there is only one advisor for all students in that discipline. This is troublesome because if academic advising is faulty, it could result in my having to stay another year at the university, thus paying an additional year of tuition merely due to glitches in my advising. The job of the advisor is to guide me with my graduation preparation, including the required courses in my major and concentration. I feel that one advisor is inadequate to help all 900 Political Science majors.

My brother, who recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin -- Madison, was unaware if he would actually graduate on time because of poor academic advising. It seemed that the advisor made an error in addition, and he was two credits away from the required amount for graduating. Luckily he was able to, independently, make up the credits; however, that is not an option for many students on the campus.

This poor advising service has been problematic for many people, and because of its importance in the welfare of education, it is necessary that this aspect of the budget be fully funded. I also urge you to re-think the ramifications of differential tuition on students who can barely pay their way through school now, and what a tuition hike of this nature would do to the educational quality of Wisconsin. I have always been proud to say I went to the University of Wisconsin, as many others are. Are you willing to be responsible for closing the door to education? I hope you will seriously consider what these points mean to students, and make wise, informed decisions on the affects of these elements to our future.

Sincerely,

Lara Bjorkquist

Lara Bjorkquist
821 West Johnson Street
404 Ewbank Sellery B
Madison, WI 53706-1798

Wisconsin Federation of Teachers
AFT/AFL-CIO
MARY ANN BRAITHWAITE, President
1334 APPLEGATE RD. • MADISON, WI 53713-3184 • (608) 277-7700 • (800) 362-7390 • FAX (608) 277-7708
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.

●●●

N:\RHONDA\KEN\JOINTFIN.TES

Wisconsin Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs

You Can See Us Working!

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
(715) 346-1401

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

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

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

Testimony of the Madison Metropolitan School District

Joint Finance Committee
Hearing on Proposed 1997-99 State Budget
Wednesday, April 16

- ***Maintain the state's commitment to pay two-thirds of school costs***
  - Keep the school aid appropriation sum sufficient
  - Don't change the definition of two-thirds state support

- ***Maintain the workability of the revenue limit***
  - Adjust allowable per student increase by a "school price index" - bring allowable increases under revenue cap more in line with QEO
  - Create hold harmless provision for districts with declining enrollments

- ***Adequately fund the SAGE program so this promising class-size reduction experiment can be implemented as intended by the legislature***
  - To fully fund SAGE, a $2.9 million increase in '97-98 and an additional $2.6 million in '98-99 is needed. This amounts to *two one-hundreths of 1 percent* (.02%) of the total state budget and is less than the proposed increase in the budget for lottery promotion.

- ***Make a good educational technology initiative better***
  - Restore the $5 million the legislature committed to the Pioneering Partners program so pending school technology grants can be funded
  - Don't take money from school libraries and existing school technology programs to fund the new TEACH Wisconsin initiative
  - Improve the formula used to distribute TEACH Wisconsin grants to school districts

- ***Remove policy items from the budget***
  - Proposals relating to statewide public school choice and local school referenda deserve to be debated as separate bills

-over-

- ***Strengthen the link between school aid and student need***

  - Revise equalization aid formula to remedy the flawed assumption that all children can be educated at the same cost (for example, weight each low-income student as 1.25 students and each limited English speaking student as 1.2 students).

  - Provide a higher level of state reimbursement of special education costs, especially for extremely high cost students with severe disabilities.

- ***Keep the Postsecondary Enrollment Options program the way it is***

  - Don't expand postsecondary enrollment options to allow high school students to take courses at higher education institutions even if those courses are offered by their school districts.

Alternative Formula for Distribution of TEACH Wisconsin Block Grants

- Per student payment based on district property values
  - Students in districts with property values below 75% of state average weighted as 3.25 students
  - Students in districts with property values between 75% and 125% of state average weighted as 2.5 students
  - Students in districts with property values between 125% and 175% of state average weighted as 1.75 students
  - Students in districts with property values above 175% of state average weighted as 1.0 student

- Eliminate $5,000 flat grant to each school district

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 Wisconsins 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 Phone (414) 246-1803
Hamilton AWARE Chairperson

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 occured 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

Inter-Departmental Mailing Address: United Council, Room B-11 South, State Capitol
E-mail Address: UCOUNCIL@macc.wisc.edu

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.

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,

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	CEREBRO VAS-CULAR DISEASES	CHRONIC OBSTRUC-TIVE PULMON-ARY DISEASES [2]	PNEUMONIA FLU	SUICIDE	CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE, CIRRHO-SIS	DIABETES MELLITIS
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.

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

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

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 dollors 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.

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.

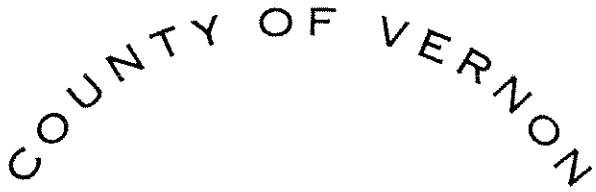
I'm on my fifth or sixth year at Old World Wisconsin. I've served in several areas and currently at our new exhibit - Caldwell Farmers Club Hall. This is used as a training center and we introduce 2000 plus school children annually to games that were played in the late 1800's. They also meet young critters 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. Jug Jouppi
W5524 Lake Shore Dr.
Elkhorn WI 53121

GEOFFREY BANTA
SHERIFF

JERRY FREDRICKSON
UNDERSHERIFF



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

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

Legilators of Wisconsin
State Capitol
Madison Wi. 53701

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.

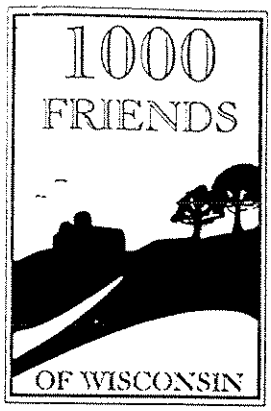
However, limited income does not permit me to do a lot without some mileage compensation.

Sincerely Yours,

Arthur K. Mehren

Arthur K. Mehren

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



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.

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.

Community-based long term care.

Also, funds should not be raised by taxing laundromats. We also do not need a $80,000 pilot project to test out the Chair Gary idea.

The state of Wisconsin's economy is not as good as the governor says. Many middle-aged men and women with high level skills cannot find work.

(3)

to develop Single Entry Points to test out new ways of providing good information to all in need of long term care so that public and private resources are used efficiently and effectively and as people choose.

Act 469 should be reinstated so that when MA-paid nursing home days decrease the savings can go to

"balanced funding" that the state claims that it wants to achieve in Long Term Care Funding.

A 6.1% rate increase for nursing homes in FY 98 and a 3.5% rate increase in FY 99, while providing funding for only 800 COP slots in the two years of the budget is not balanced funding. No other programs or departments have realized 6.1% increases.

Why weren't the $ pilot projects

I arranged to leave work early so that I could get home in time to testify. I arrived at 4:15 and learned that I will not be able to testify. This is not fair to working people. I work in Menomonie Wisconsin.

I will write my comments down and hope that they will be considered.

This budget does not reflect

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

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 suppport 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!