

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_pt202

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

This is a letter about the SAGE program. My name is Kathy Aschinger and I have a son Jay Aschinger that is involved in the SAGE program at the Laong, Wisconsin school. I think and know that this SAGE program is a extremely excellent program, not only for the student but also for the teachers and also us parents. I know I can see how much it has helped my child and alot of other children in our school. Without the SAGE program the teacher would not have the time and patiences to teach the children. With twenty or thirty students in a classroom a teacher can only try to discipline and try to keep the students under control. I think that is just too much for the teacher and the student with that many in one classroom. That is not fair to our good teachers that we have and its not fair to the students either. We need someone who will be there mentally and phisicially for our children.

There is no time for the teacher ~~or student~~ to give to the student one on one

if needed with that big
classroom.

If our children don't
get a good education what
will there be ~~in~~ the
future? Or in life?

Think about what you
are doing because if you don't,
you are hurting and affecting
a lot of young innocent
children that need this
program. And also good
teachers. This is our future
so please keep the program
going. Thank you

Kathy Aschinger

4-9-97

I am writing this letter in support of the SAGE Program at C.L. Robinson Elementary School, Laona, which is in jeopardy for the upcoming 97-98 school year.

Last year my daughter attended kindergarten in a classroom of 30+ children with one teacher & one teacher's aide in an all-day five day per week program. After being very excited to begin school, she became reluctant to go and became "lost in the shuffle". What she needed was a little guidance (as most kindergarteners do) but was not able to get it with such a big class. I would never have imagined she would feel so insecure.

She is now in 1st grade in a classroom of about 15 children under the SAGE Program and the change in her is remarkable. She loves school and is doing extremely

well. The classroom is so organized and the children so well behaved compared to the previous year. The teacher has complete control.

I also have a son who is presently in 5th grade. He too has been in a large class of 30+ children since kindergarten. He has a difficulty with reading and phonics which I attribute to being in a large class especially in the primary years.

I have experienced both sides of this issue with my two children & strongly urge you to continue the SAGE Program at our school and allow our children to get the early education they need and deserve.

Sincerely,
Amy Lemerande

April 8, 1997

To Whom it may concern:

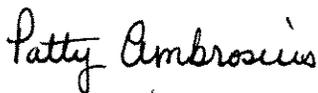
I have been informed by the teachers and principal of our school, (Laona Elementary) that there may be changes or limits applied to our SAGE program. Instead of giving you negative reasons why the changes or limits should not take place, I would rather point out positive aspects of the program.

One of the programs guidelines allows a maximum of fifteen students per teacher and classroom. This encourages more one on one teaching time, which improves the students education. It also provides the teacher extra time for individual attention, which helps to discourage negative behavior. There is also less stress on the teacher as well as the students, which combined with the above aspects builds an all around positive teacher/student relationship.

Many students live in homes where both parents need to work and are unable to spend extra time with their children. The SAGE program provides teachers with the opportunity to spend quality time with their students. Although this does not replace parent participation, any positive adult influence is a plus.

Teachers have an important responsibility to help our children develop a good attitude toward education, themselves and the people around them. If the SAGE program can help our teachers and students, I believe it should continue.

Sincerely,



Patty Ambrosius

April 8, 1997

Re: Possible Freezing of SAGE Funds

To Whom It May Concern:

My son Christopher is in Mr. Olson's Kindergarten class in Laona, Wisconsin. Mr. Olson's class is funded by SAGE.

This is Chris' 2nd year in Kindergarten. Last year there were 33 students in his class. The teacher was wonderful and I was impressed with the order she kept in her classroom, but Chris needed some individual attention and with 32 other children it was hard to give.

Because there are less than 15 students in his class this year, Chris is able to get one-on-one teaching as often as he needs it. Sometimes all of the children are not able to grasp the same concept at the same time. It is nice to know that Mr. Olson is able to take the time to pull them aside and answer their questions. Another benefit of the smaller class is that the students are able to actively participate in lessons, discussions and responsibilities in the classroom. Chris has learned so much this year and I have to believe a lot of it is because of the extra teacher SAGE provided for our school.

Funding has also been provided for a first grade teacher and hopefully for a second grade teacher too. I understand there is a 5-year contract with SAGE. I am sure that throughout that time enough parents will benefit from the smaller classrooms that the community will agree to keep the extra teachers on. Thank you for making classes like this possible in our town.

I am asking you to please consider students, like my son, who need the extra help and not freeze the funding for the SAGE Program.

Thank you.


Mrs. Kristine Baker

April 7, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in concerns to the SAGE program that we have in our Laona School District. I have a Child that is a student in the Kindergarten class that is under this program, I have been informed that the money for the SAGE program has had a freeze put on it. My concern is how can this happen when a five year contract was signed with our school.

As a tax payer as well as a parent, this program is a benefit to the students to be able to have a better teacher/student ratio. Please consider the children's education and let the money stay where it should be so that we may higher a Second grade teacher to continue on with this program.

Sincerely yours,

A Concerned Parent

To: C.L. Robinson Elementary School.

Regarding the Sage Program:

I have a son in the 1st grade. He is currently doing very well in the separated classes compared to being with 29 other children in one room. In the larger class (K) Kyle was very anxious, & couldn't concentrate on his studies. He had no self esteem & was confused. The difference in the two years, was & is very apparent, I strongly urge to keep the sage program not only for the student, but for the teachers benefit as well.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joie Albrecht

Gary and Olivia Zimmer
PO Box 116
Laona, WI 54541

April 7, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

We are parents of a first grade child who is currently in the SAGE program in C. L. Robinson Elementary School in Laona, WI. Our school is in it's first year in this program and was able to hire a kindergarten and a first grade teacher with plans to hire a second grade teacher next year. The class going into second grade next year will consist of about 30 students. These students were together in kindergarten. Although the teacher was very good and had a lot of patience, they were not able to do as many academics because of the large group. Our daughter often complained about the children being noisy and behaving badly. We rarely hear that complaint this year. She tends to be a shy girl, but being in the smaller class has allowed her to become more confident and develop friendships. We have seen how the 15 to 1 student/teacher ratio has given the teacher more ability to focus on difficulties the children may be experiencing. The children seem more relaxed and better able to concentrate. As parents, we can see that there are many advantages to the smaller class sizes, especially in the early primary grades. The second grade is still early enough in a child's development to benefit considerably from the smaller class size.

We understand that the funding for the SAGE program is being considered for elimination. If our school could have a few more years of SAGE funding for the three teachers needed, they would eventually be able to continue the program on District funds. But to ask the school board and taxpayers to approve the hiring of an additional teacher for the second grade will probably result in these 30 children being put into one class again with one teacher. It is always easier to get funding approved for programs that are up and running than to try to fund new programs, no matter how beneficial they may be. Please consider this SAGE funding program for a few more years to help the school districts that are involved to get themselves established. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Gary and Olivia
Zimmer*

Gary and Olivia Zimmer

Dear whom Concerned,

I was told through the School that it might be possible that we will not get a 2nd teacher for 2nd grade. If that does happen there are going to be some kids that are going to be lost, and my daughter will be one of those lost children. You don't understand how much better my daughter is doing in 1st grade with two teachers, there is so much more LOK! When the class was in Kindergarten my daughter was having a very hard time and she was not alone. They always say that the first few years of school are the most important. What kind of future does our children have if they can't get a good start now. Please take time to understand the future of our children.

Jodi Debelius

4-7-97

I feel the SAGE program has been a real benefit for our children at Laona Elementary.

I was told my son should have been held back in Kindergarten because he wasn't mature enough to do all that would be expected in 1st. grade. He was in a class of 29 students then.

I sent him to 1st grade anyway because he would be in a smaller class. (15 students) Today he is doing a great job in all subjects and his teacher feels he is ready for 2nd grade.

He is doing so well because of the SAGE program. My son needs this. He gets more one on one with his teacher, has less distractions and concentrates easier, in a small class.

The SAGE program is the best thing for my son and will also benefit my daughter when she starts Kindergarten in the fall.

I hope this program will continue. Thank-you for reading my concerns.

Sharla Kitchmaster



1853 N. STEVENS STREET
P.O. BOX 1028
RHINELANDER, WI 54501-1028

RICHARD SICCHIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
715-365-2525

LARRY THOMPSON
PRESIDENT

TESTIMONY FOR JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

APRIL 10, 1997

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

BY RICHARD SICCHIO

MY NAME IS RICHARD SICCHIO AND I AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTHERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING LOCATED IN RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN. THE NORTHERN REGION INCLUDES 17 COUNTIES AND SIX TRIBAL AREAS IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN AND APPROXIMATELY 100,000 OLDER PEOPLE RESIDE HERE. IN THE INTEREST OF TIME MY REMARKS WILL BE BRIEF AND I HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH A TYPED COPY. I THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE.

MY MAIN CONCERN ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET IS IN THE AREA OF LONG TERM CARE. ONCE AGAIN THE BUDGET HE PROPOSED REFLECTS THE CONTINUED INSTITUTIONAL BIAS THAT RANKS WISCONSIN 9th IN THE NATION IN TERMS OF HOW MANY PERSONS PER CAPITA ARE RECEIVING LONG TERM CARE IN INSTITUTIONS. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED FUNDING FOR 2,500 ADDITIONAL COP SLOTS TO ADDRESS THE COP WAITING LIST WHICH IS NOW OVER 8,200 THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDS FUNDING FOR ONLY 400 ADDITIONAL SLOTS.

AT THE SAME TIME, WHILE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES REQUESTED ZERO INCREASES FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS, THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REQUESTS MODIFYING THE NURSING HOME FORMULA TO PROVIDE UP TO 6.1% INCREASE IN 1998 AND UP TO 3.5% IN 1999 WHICH COULD ADD UP TO \$132 MILLION OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING.

WHAT AMAZES ME ABOUT ALL THIS IS THAT WISCONSIN'S COP PROGRAM HAS BEEN NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR SERVING LONG TERM CARE CLIENTS IN THEIR HOMES AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

A YEAR AGO LEGISLATION WAS PASSED THAT SAID THAT ANYONE WHOSE SERVICES AT HOME WERE HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE COST OF NURSING HOME CARE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A NURSING HOME. WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN PRUDENT AT THAT TIME TO SAY CONVERSELY THAT ANYONE WHOSE SERVICES IN AN INSTITUTION WERE HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE COST OF HOME CARE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THEIR HOME IF IT WAS POSSIBLE? WOULDN'T THAT HAVE BEEN GOOD SOCIAL POLICY? EVEN THOUGH THE CAP ON COMMUNITY CARE WAS NEVER IMPLEMENTED, IT WAS ANOTHER CLEAR EXAMPLE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIAS WE HAVE IN WISCONSIN.

THIS IS AN ENORMOUS ISSUE. THE AGE WAVE IS COMING. IF WE DON'T BEGIN NOW TO PREPARE FOR THE MASSIVE INCREASES IN OLDER PEOPLE CAUSED BY THE BABY BOOM AND INCREASES IN LONGEVITY, OUR SYSTEMS WILL COLLAPSE UNDER THE PRESSURE. UNLESS WE PLAN ON TURNING ALL OUR HIGH RISES INTO NURSING HOMES, WE WILL NOT EVEN COME CLOSE TO MEETING THE INCREASED NEEDS THE NEXT DECADES WILL BRING.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE A MINUTE TO VOICE MY SUPPORT FOR AN ELDER RIGHTS BILL FOR WISCONSIN. A BILL THAT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BENEFIT SPECIALIST PROGRAM INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBAL BENEFIT SPECIALIST PROGRAM; PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ELDER ABUSE DIRECT SERVICES; AND ADD TWO ADDITIONAL OMBUDSMAN TO THE BOARD ON AGING AND LONG TERM CARE. ALL FUNDING FOR THESE PROGRAMS WOULD COME FROM THE ELIMINATING THE SENIOR CITIZENS INCOME TAX CREDIT OF \$25.00 FOR COUPLES WITH ANNUAL INCOMES OVER \$40,000 AND INDIVIDUALS WITH AN INCOME OVER \$30,000.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Letters & Science
Department of Mathematics & Computing

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-2120

**Testimony Before
the Joint Finance Committee
Wausau, Wisconsin
April 10, 1997**

**William Wresch
Chair
Department of Mathematics and Computing
UW-Stevens Point**

Hello. I am the local computer nerd, here to speak about the technology component of the University budget. My name is Bill Wresch and I head the computer major at UW-Stevens Point.

I know your time is limited, but I would like to briefly make three points about technology and the university.

First, part of this funding will go to help produce the computer experts needed by businesses here in Central Wisconsin. My program, for example, graduates 45 computer majors a year. They are all instantly hired at salaries ranging from 33,000 to 39,000 dollars year. Yet employers need more graduates than we can produce. If you ask any of the major employers here in the Wisconsin River Valley, they will all tell you the same thing -- they have trouble finding people who can run their networks, solve the Year 2000 problem, and help build the technologies upon which their enterprises depend. The Information Systems managers I talk with tell me they are finding only about half the computing professionals they need.

It is part of the University of Wisconsin's job to help provide those professionals, but it is not easy or cheap. UW-Stevens Point will spend \$100,000 this summer to build a network experimentation laboratory so every one of our computer grads can enter the workforce fully experienced in creating and maintaining computer networks.

Second, there are the other graduates of our university. Whether they are social work majors, accounting majors, or art majors, they all need to learn about the latest technology in their field. So they learn to use word processors, spreadsheets, databases, the Internet, and all the particular resources of their

profession. But teaching them these skills is not easy either. In any given semester, we have over 1000 students at UWSP taking one, two, or three credit courses in these areas. That requires computer facilities and instructors. Neither come cheap.

But if we don't provide this basic technology training for all our graduates, they will arrive at their first job unable to use the tools of their profession. They will not be work-ready when they graduate, and in fact we will be passing the expenses of their education onto their employers who will have to absorb the cost of their training. So we make the effort to provide as much computer training for all our majors as we can. The classes are full and the computer labs are full, and we are doing the best we can with what we have.

Third, there is our effort at outreach. I hope you have been told that UWSP is coordinating efforts with the Centers here at Wausau and Marshfield to provide four years of college right here in these cities. We are working on this project because we have surveyed residents of Central Wisconsin and know that there are large numbers of working adults who wish to upgrade their skills and complete a college degree. Yet because they are working during the day, they can't run down to Stevens Point to finish a degree. So we are going to bring the degree to them.

Our Regional Degree program will create a late afternoon and evening program for working adults. The first major we will offer is business. We will follow that up with a computing degree. This seems a perfect way to help both the employers of Central Wisconsin who are currently struggling with a shortage of skilled workers, while at the same time helping working adults who want to improve their employability. How are we going to do this? Much of it will require distance education strategies that will involve everything from new telecommunications links, to such old fashioned requirements as ensuring that there are enough books in the library here at the Wausau Center. But again, this effort will require money.

What would I like you to do to help us in these efforts? Two things. First, fund the technology initiative. I wish new technology was free, but it isn't. You know that and I know that. If we want technology available for our students and available to reach out to working Wisconsinites, we are going to have to pay for it.

Second, approve a reasonable raise for my faculty. I am going to lose one of my best professors next month. We were paying him \$40,000 per year. He was hired by the National Security Agency for \$65,000. I can't compete with that. Usually I don't have to. Our professors love teaching and research and will stay in the field even though they know they could be making far more money in industry. But we can't push them too far. A one percent raise last year, two

percent this year, pushes their family finances too hard. If you follow that up with anything less than 4% each of the next two years and they will all start thinking about a career change.

And if they start looking, they will find jobs. If they wish to keep teaching, all of the surrounding states are giving their faculty far more generous raises. If they choose to leave teaching, they can do even better. At some point, they will start thinking of what their families need, and I will have lost them. I can't run my program without professors. Please help me keep the ones I have.

So, what am I asking? Remember that we need technology to create the computing professionals Central Wisconsin employers are looking to hire, we also need technology to give all college students basic experience so they are job-ready upon graduation, and we need technology to reach out to working adults all over Central Wisconsin who wish to improve their skills. That will require funds for technology, and adequate compensation so we can put professors in the front of the room.

Thank You.

RAISING WISCONSIN'S TOBACCO EXCISE FEES:

**PROTECTING CHILDREN,
INCREASING REVENUE,
SAVING LIVES**



Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention
University of Wisconsin Medical School

CONCLUSION:

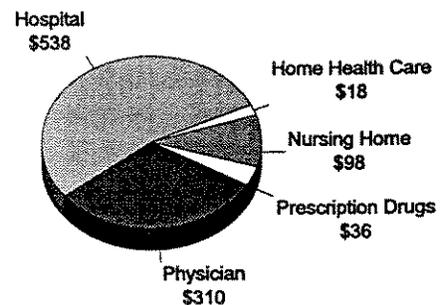
RAISING THE CIGARETTE EXCISE FEE BY AT LEAST 50¢ PER PACK WILL: (A) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TOBACCO ADDICTION; (B) SAVE WISCONSIN RESIDENTS FROM THE PREVENTABLE ILLNESS AND PREMATURE DEATH THAT RESULTS FROM SMOKING; AND (C) INCREASE STATE REVENUE FOR TAX RELIEF AND OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS.

FACT: SMOKING IS A MAJOR ECONOMIC BURDEN ON THE CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN.

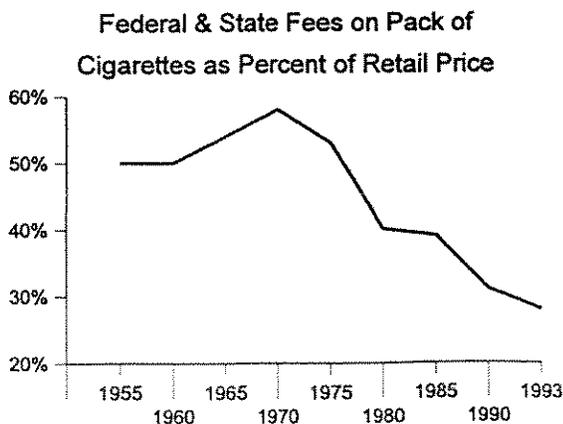
KEY FACTS:

- ▶ Cigarette smoking costs Wisconsin more than \$1 billion in direct medical costs per year.¹
- ▶ In contrast, the current cigarette excise fee in Wisconsin only generates \$175 million per year.²
- ▶ Each smoker in our state spends, on average, \$800 per year for cigarettes.
- ▶ For states such as Wisconsin, reducing or eliminating tobacco use will increase employment in our state and improve health.³

Medical Costs (\$Millions), 1993



FACT: CIGARETTE EXCISE FEES IN WISCONSIN HAVE DECLINED IN REAL TERMS OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS.



KEY FACTS:

- ▶ Excise fee, measured as a percentage of the average retail price of cigarettes, has dropped from 56% to 28% over the last twenty years.
- ▶ Fourteen states have cigarette excise fees higher than Wisconsin's.

FACT: MOST WISCONSIN RESIDENTS WANT CIGARETTE EXCISE FEES INCREASED.

KEY FACTS:

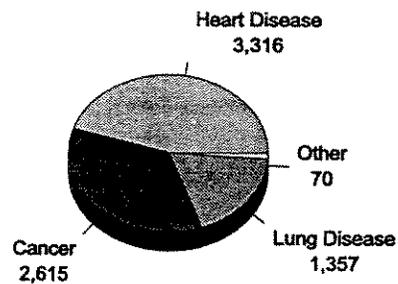
- ▶ 73% of Wisconsin residents support a \$1 per pack cigarette fee increase.⁴
- ▶ One-third of *smokers* support a \$1 per pack cigarette fee increase.

FACT: RAISING THE CIGARETTE EXCISE FEE WILL SAVE WISCONSIN LIVES.

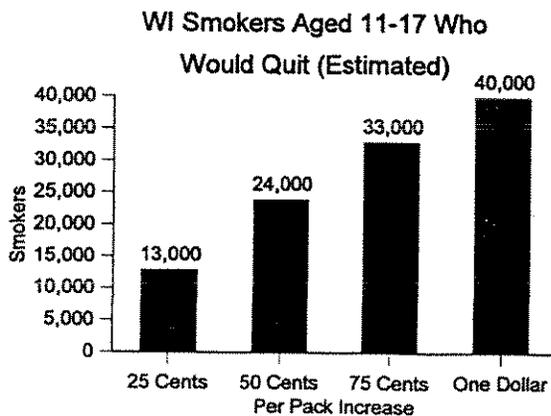
KEY FACTS:

- ▶ 7,400 Wisconsin residents die prematurely each year directly from tobacco use; that is, one out of every five deaths in our state is directly caused by smoking.
- ▶ Approximately 85,000 years of potential life are lost in our state each year because of premature deaths from tobacco.

WI Deaths Due to Smoking, 1993



FACT: INCREASING EXCISE FEES IS THE MOST POWERFUL WAY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TOBACCO ADDICTION.



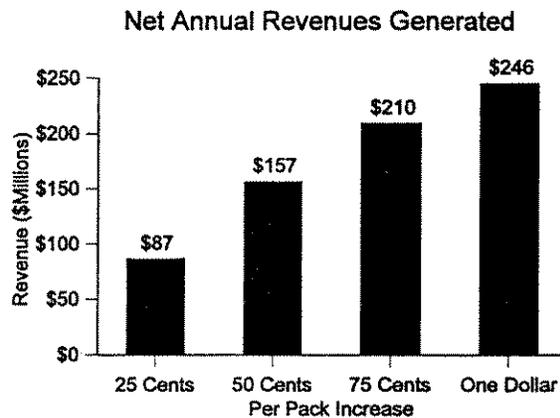
KEY FACTS:

- ▶ Each 10% increase in the real (after inflation) price of cigarettes leads to about a 10% reduction in tobacco use among teenagers.⁵
- ▶ Raising the cigarette excise fee by 50¢ per pack will result in 24,000 adolescents quitting smoking each year.
- ▶ Raising the cigarette excise fee by 50¢ per pack will discourage 50,000 adults from smoking each year.

FACT: RAISING CIGARETTE EXCISE FEES COULD BE AN IMPORTANT REVENUE SOURCE FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

KEY FACTS:

- ▶ Increasing the excise fee has two important benefits: it decreases smoking and its related costs, while increasing overall fee revenue.
- ▶ A 50¢ per pack increase will generate \$157 million per year.
- ▶ A \$1 per pack increase will generate \$246 million per year.
- ▶ If all of the new revenue from a \$1 excise fee increase went to property tax relief, each homeowner in Wisconsin would save \$200 each year.⁶



References

1. Van Gilder TJ, Remington PL: The health care burden of cigarettes on Wisconsin communities, 1994. Wisconsin Medical Journal, November, 1994.
2. Based on data for fiscal year ending June 30, 1994. Wisconsin Department of Revenue.
3. Warner KE, Fulton GA: The economic implications of tobacco product sales in a nontobacco state. JAMA, 1994;271:771-776.
4. The Wisconsin Survey, March, 1993. St. Norbert's College Survey Center, De Pere, WI 54115.
5. Ferrence R, et al: Effects of pricing on cigarette use among teenagers and adults in Canada, 1980-1989. Addiction Research Foundation, Toronto, February, 1991.
6. Based on 1.2 million homeowners receiving the property tax credit in 1994. Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

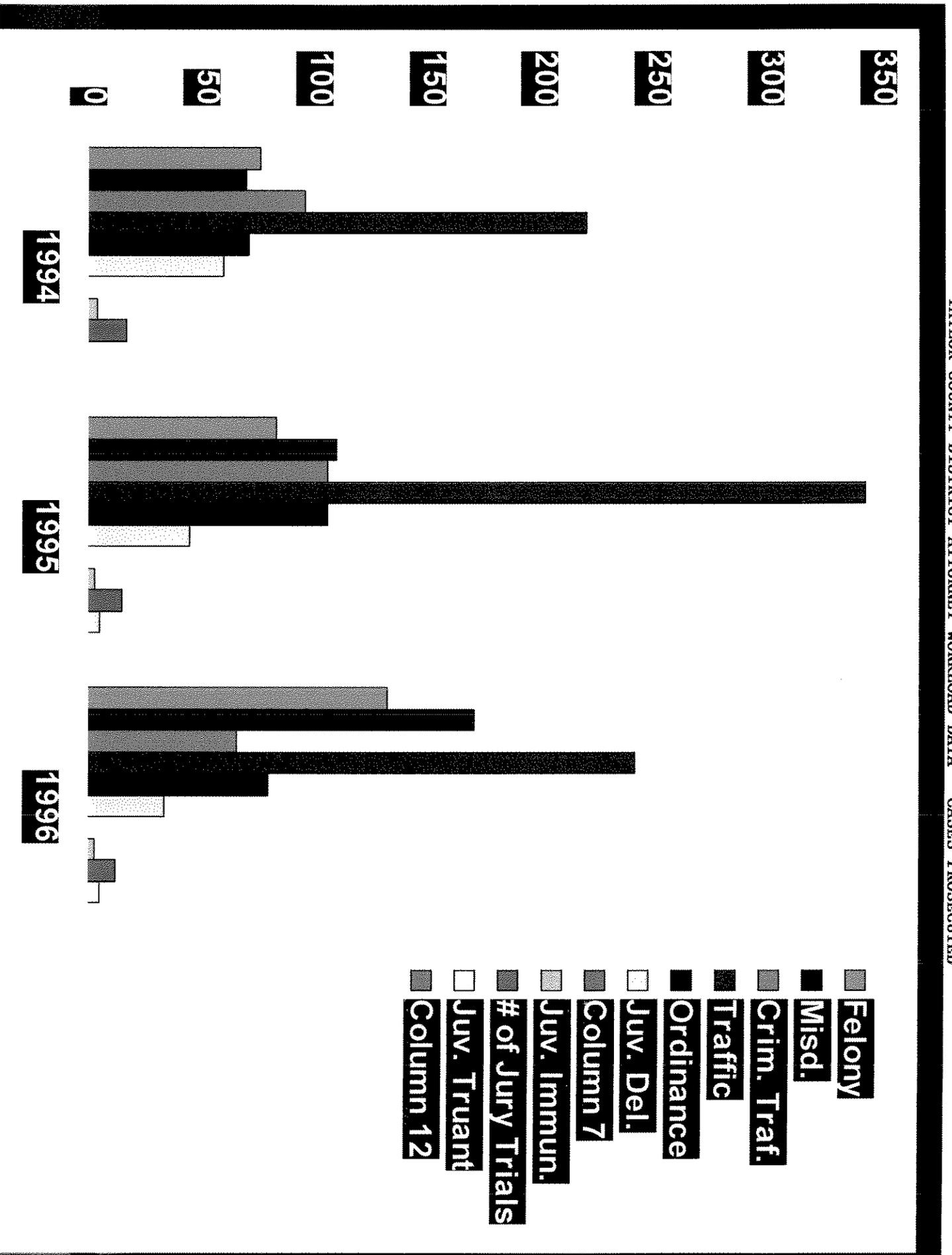
The Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention would like to thank Michael Hartman, Eric Stecker, and Scott Woller who assisted on this project.

CENTER FOR TOBACCO RESEARCH AND INTERVENTION

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL SCHOOL

7275 Medical Sciences Center 1300 University Avenue Madison, WI 53706
TEL: (608) 262-8673 FAX: (608) 265-3102

TAYLOR COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WORKLOAD DATA - CASES PROSECUTED



Taylor County D.A. Workload Data - Cases Prosecuted

Year	Felony	Misd.	Crim. Traffic	Traffic	Ordin.	Juvenile Delinq.	Juvenile Truants/Immuns	# of Jury Trials
1994	76	70	96	221	71	60	0/4	17
1995	83	110	106	344	106	45	5/3	15
1996	133	171	66	242	80	34	5/3	12
Totals	292	351	268	807	257	139	10/10	44

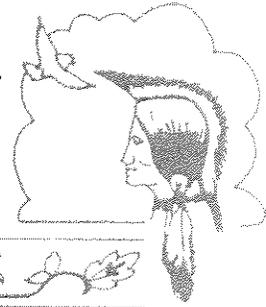
Lab Time Allowed for 1994 = 1.065

Lab Time Allowed for 1995 = 1.035

Lab Time Allowed for 1996 = 1.407



Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College



Route 2, Box 2357, Hayward, WI 54843-9419

Phone 715/634-4790
Fax 715/634-5049

April 9, 1997

Dear Members Joint Committee on Finance:

I send greetings on behalf of President Minhas, Faculty, Staff and Students from the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College which is located near Hayward, Wisconsin.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College and the College of Menominee Nation, the only two Tribal Community Colleges in the State of Wisconsin, seek your support to provide financial assistance to meet the unmet need of non-Indian students matriculating at both tribal colleges.

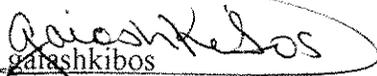
Base funding is provided to both tribal colleges through appropriations by the U.S. Congress administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Each college receives approximately three thousand dollars (3,000) FTE per Native American Student - no dollars are appropriated for non-Indian students. In addition, each college does charge tuition for all students. Both colleges actively seeks foundation dollars and financial support from other sources. This however, is not enough to meet the increasing enrollment of non-Indian students.

Both Lac Courte Oreilles and Menominee College initially requested fifty one hundred dollars (5,100) FTE for non-Indian students and we have since revised our request to the State of Wisconsin to provide the minimum dollar amount that we presently receive from the BIA, that is three thousand dollars (3,000) FTE.

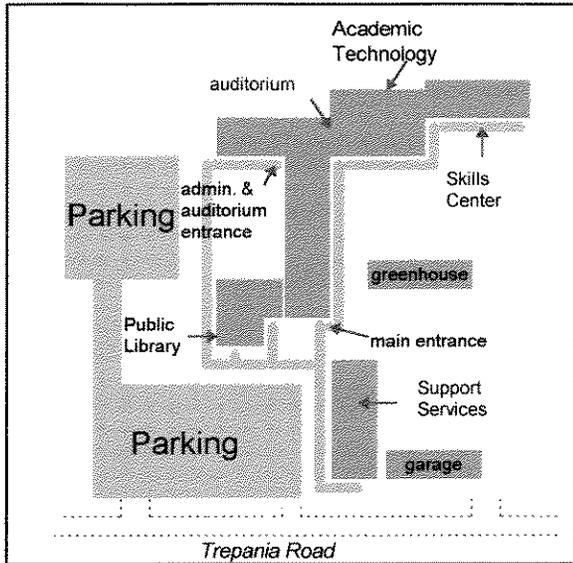
Lac Courte Oreilles 1995-96	100 (non-Indian Students) x 3,000 = 300,000
Menominee Nation College 1995-96	88 (non-Indian Students) x 3,000 = 264,000

Total request from the State of Wisconsin is \$564,000 for both Tribal Community Colleges to provide quality education for all students in the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration.

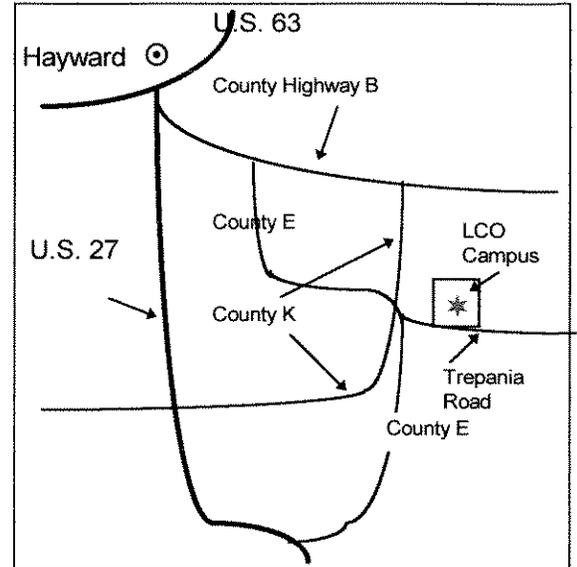
Sincerely,


Gaiashkibos
Vice President

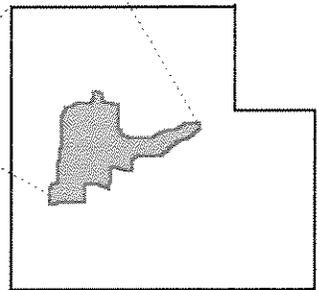
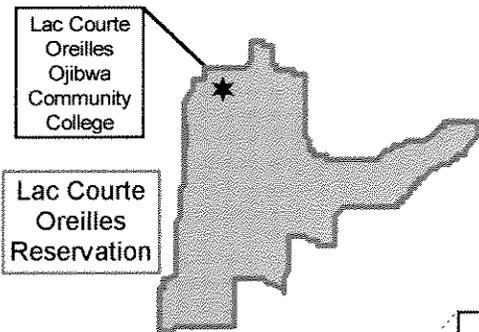
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College



LCOOCC Campus

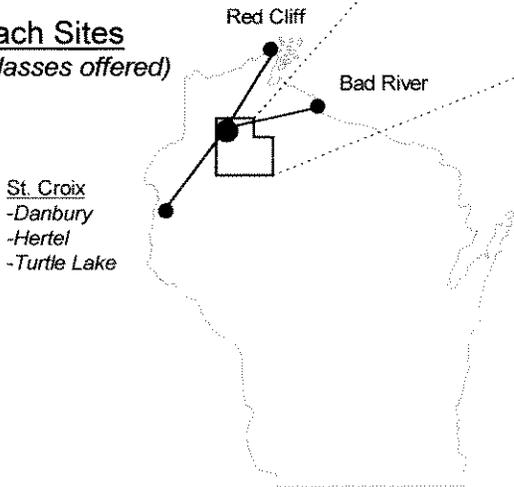


For additional information please call LCOOCC at 715 - 634 - 4790.



Out-reach Sites

(same classes offered)



The Great State of Wisconsin



Statement to Joint Finance Committee

Ann T. Bolz
Director, Administrative Services
Community Health Care, Inc.
Wausau, Wisconsin
April 10, 1997

I'd like to thank the members of the Joint Finance Committee for traveling to Wausau to receive testimony on the 1997- 1999 State Biennial Budget.

Community Health Care, Inc. is the parent company of Wausau Hospital, Visiting Nurse Association, Wausau Regional Health Care, Northwoods Hospital, Pine Ridge Medical Equipment and Center Buildings, Inc. Our purpose is to provide a complete continuum of health care services to the residents of North and Central Wisconsin. Our objectives include providing residents the appropriate care, at the right time, the right place and at the right cost. We provide services locally, and have providers in 14 counties in Wisconsin and three in Michigan.

The Budget bill contains a provision to shore up the finances of the HIRSP plan by further reducing payments to providers who provide care to HIRSP enrollees. As you know, individuals who are eligible for coverage through the HIRSP plan have been deemed "uninsurable" in the private insurance market, and the HIRSP Plan serves as a residual market for these individuals. The plan is currently funded with a combination of premiums, state subsidy, provider discounts (providers are currently reimbursed at a discounted rate of 70-80% of their costs) and insurance industry assessments. While the majority of the private insurance market, and government funded insurance markets, such as Medicaid and Medicare, have begun to embrace managed care as a strategy to reduce costs and improve access and quality of care, the HIRSP program stands out as a program that seeks to shore up finances by adding more money and ignoring managed care strategies.

The proposal before you, if sustained, will reimburse HIRSP providers at the Medicaid rate which is currently at 55% for inpatient hospitals and 44% for out patient care., resulting in a cut of \$10.5 million. This \$10.5 million cut is added to the \$7million currently contributed through the provider discounts. Physicians will face a reduction from 72% of charges to 38% of charges, resulting in a \$8 million reduction.

What is particularly onerous about this HIRSP budget balancing, is that it is accomplished by a hidden tax on providers. HIRSP beneficiaries get no relief from their high premiums, and certainly no incentives or benefits that are derived from implementation of managed care strategies. It leaves in place an expensive, fragmented health services reimbursement scheme which is certainly out of step with other state initiatives directed at improving access to care and quality of services to the states vulnerable populations.

Testimony
Ann T. Bolz
April 10, 1997

We agree the HIRSP program needs refocusing and reevaluation. We also agree that providers need to be a part of the evaluation with the outcome to develop a health insurance system for HIRSP enrollees that manages both their costs and their care. Last session the legislature asked OCI and DHFS to develop detailed recommendations to do just that. This response of provider payment reductions is neither refocusing the plan nor is the result of reevaluation of the total plan. It is a quick fix, a hidden tax, and serves only to mislead the beneficiaries, the taxpayers and the providers.

We suggest this committee reject this funding proposal and set in motion a productive and budget balancing revision of the HIRSP plan that is consistent with other state directed health plans.

I thank you for your time.



April 8, 1997

Joint Finance Committee
State of Wisconsin

Gentlemen:

My name is Tony Yeager, and I live in Rhinelander, Wi.

I have some concerns regarding Alzheimers Disease, pertaining to the treatment, and research done on its behalf to find some preventative way to restrain or stop the onset of this disease.

You may or may not be aware of the large number of people afflicted with Alzheimers. At the present time almost 60% of the people in nursing homes have this disease. I do not have the number of these who are being paid for by Medicaid, but the cost at approximately \$3000.00 per month is very, very great.

I am asking you to consider allocating a sum of money strictly for research so we can bring this disease under control or at least restrict it. Perhaps to start with several million dollars?

Many years ago the scourge of Polio haunted everyone but with the advent of the Saulk vaccine it has practically been eliminated.

In Wisconsin we are fortunate to have the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation who through their efforts created the drug WARFRIN. As you know this is used for controlling rats and mice, but it also is less known for the useage in prescription drugs such as Coumadin, which is a blood thinner and used by those people with heart conditions and high blood pressure. The foundation has generated thousands of dollars as a result of their patents.

My suggestion, is, let us allocate some money and perhaps have the Wisconsin Alumni Foundation work on the Alzheimer research and hopefully the State of Wisconsin, will not only help restrain or prevent the disease but could also create a source of income and reduce the expenditures through Medicaid.

Thank you, for your time and consideration, as chairperson of the Publicy Policy committee, I am speaking for the more than 6000 persons in our area diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Yeager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tony Yeager
3 Edgewater Homes
Rhinelander, WI.
54501

cc: Senator, Roger Breske
Representative Joe Handrick

North Central Wisconsin Chapter 903 N. 2nd Street Wausau, WI 54403
(715) 848-1221 1-800-200-1221

April 10, 1997

Testimony of Karen Kolpien for review by the Joint Finance Committee.

Topic: Increase the cigarette excise tax.

I urge you, the members of the Joint Finance Committee to increase the cigarette excise tax.

The sole reason for increasing the cigarette tax should be to deter young persons from starting to smoke.

In states such as Massachusetts and California it has been documented that an increase in the cigarette tax results in fewer young people starting to smoke.

The Tobacco-Free coalitions of Portage and Wood counties have collected over 700 signatures that support a cigarette tax increase of an additional 56 cents. This is a tax that is popular with parents, teachers, and community members because no one wants to see their child smoke.

In my involvement in tobacco prevention and education, I have witnessed the ever increasing number of kids that smoke. Education is not the answer, we are presently educating and yet we see the numbers of youth smoking rise at an alarming rate. Over the past five years (1991 - 1996) smoking has risen by 50% among 8th graders (from 14% to 21%) and 10th graders (from 21% to 30%). Smoking by 12th graders is up 20% during this same period (from 28% to 34%). In Wisconsin, in 1996, 37% of kids in grades 9-12 were identified as current smokers. We need a new answer, an answer that will work.

Raising the cigarette tax is an answer to assist in the problem. Other states are successfully benefitting from an increased cigarette tax. I urge you to let our Wisconsin kids benefit as well. Help kids to never start to smoke.

Testimony Submitted to the Joint Finance Committee -
Thursday, April 10, 1997, at U.W. Marathon Campus University
Theatre, Room 133, 518 South 7th Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin.

Honorable Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

I am Nora Zientkowski of Tomahawk, Wisconsin, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the thousands of Alzheimer's victims and their care givers, including myself and my husband, Raymond, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 1992.

Legislature in and of itself is an innate body of government without the ability to act, speak, love or hate - it cannot distinguish right from wrong, fairness from injustice, has no soul, lacks the ability to make justifiable decisions, or to reason (just like persons with Alzheimer's Disease) it cannot hear the marchers who march to the beat of the drum to Federal and State Capitols, or to the lone voice of the victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

That is why I am appealing to you, the persons functioning within the innate body of legislative government who are endowed with all of the above attributes to make decisions which are of most benefit to humanity.

I am quoting Si Frumkin, a freelance writer from Studio City, California, whose commentary appeared in The Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, February 11, 1997 (copy attached):

"What if it was called AIDSHEIMERS?"

The unfairness of the overwhelming concern for AIDS and the lukewarm interest for Diseases like Alzheimer's is even more striking when one considers that AIDS is unique in that it is almost 100% preventable."

Si Frumkin is echoing my words that I have been vocalizing and writing to anyone and everyone who is in a position to hear, listen, and read for the past two years, and in a position to end discrimination against victims of Alzheimer's Disease and their loved ones.

Our time is long overdue by government and many health care providers in recognizing our NEEDS and addressing our concerns. We have contributed all of our lives to the advancement of government and society as a whole.

It is high time that we, who are NOT ORGANIZED, make our voices and our needs heard and be recognized as a segment of Society with SPECIAL needs.

Testimony to Finance Committee
Page Two

A lot more has to be done in Alzheimer's Research, Training, Information and Education (TIES) in order to improve the Quality of Life for both the Alzheimer's patient and family care givers - all of these need funding dollars.

Health care providers are slow in responding to Alzheimer's patient needs. There is a lack of training of paid health care professional care givers. As a result, ethical and moral implications regarding the delivery of health care services is in question. Is this a result of poor legislation?

President Clinton added insult to injury when he requested Medicare payment for 32 hours of respite care a YEAR for the beneficiaries of Alzheimer's Disease in the 1998 Budget package which he submitted to Congress. Would you cheer this miniscule crumb as a Presidential gift if YOU were a 36 hour a day care giver in every 24 hours in YOUR DAY? I know you would NOT.

I implore you to look at the needs associated with Alzheimer's Disease and make decisions of conscience, justice and fairness to Alzheimer's victims who have so far been sorely ignored and discriminated against by too many segments of government and society.

I would appreciate knowing you will include adequate funding for Alzheimer's programs in the 1998 budget.

Sincerely,
Nora Zientkowski *Nora Zientkowski*
Taxpayer and Caregiver
Member of North Central
Chapter Alzheimer's
Association of Wisconsin
W4784 Highway A
Tomahawk, WI 54487

P.S. Judith Durkee, Executive Director of seven counties of the North Central Wisconsin Chapter of Alzheimer's Association, is the only paid staffer in her office. Her salary is paid by a grant from the Helen Bader Foundation. No government funding here. The office is functioning with very dedicated volunteers who are themselves very busy and very tired care givers. Could you do as well in your Legislative Offices with volunteer help?

WE NEED YOUR HELP - Thank you.

*cc: Alzheimer's Assoc.
Chicago & Wash. D.C.*

Commentary

The unfairness of the overwhelming concern for AIDS and the lukewarm interest for diseases like Alzheimer's is even more striking when one considers that AIDS is unique in that it is almost 100 percent preventable.

What if it was called Aidshheimer's?

By Si Frumkin

My mother had Alzheimer's disease for six years before she died and so I have a special fear that affects me when I forget a face, a name, anything. "Is this it? I think to myself, "is it happening to me?" I watched a bright, happy, efficient, talented, beautiful woman become a stolid, passive, unsmiling infant. At first she just seemed to have lapses of memory. She would say things that had no relation to what she had been talking about a moment ago, she'd respond to questions that weren't asked, she'd smile and nod her head and I'd know that she didn't understand what was being said. After a while she couldn't write anymore, then she couldn't speak coherently, just baby talk and noises with a word here and there. Finally, she recognized no one, regressed into her own world that was somewhere behind her empty eyes and spent her days and nights in a chair, a bed, docile, wherever she was led and placed, fed and diapered, never asking for anything, an unhappy infant in an adult body, her mind and soul gone. Once in a while she would cry. We never knew why.

And so I have a special fear that haunts me whenever I forget something. I tell myself that it's the normal aging process, that it happens to everyone, that I was always very bad at remembering faces and names, and yet, the fear is there. I am at more risk than those who didn't have a history of this unspeakable horror in their families but there is nothing I can do about it. I make bad jokes about leaving instructions to contact Dr. Jack Kevoorkian if "it" happens to me, but I am not really joking. I wouldn't want to live speechless, mindless, an infant in diapers, without dignity, without a mind.

Alzheimer's is a nightmare. It destroys the mind. It erases the individual. It strikes indiscriminately and there is no warning, no prevention, no cure. It is almost an epidemic—the number of people with Alzheimer's is expected to reach 15 million during the next 25 years. It strikes 7 percent of people older than 65 and 40 percent of those older than 80. Yet

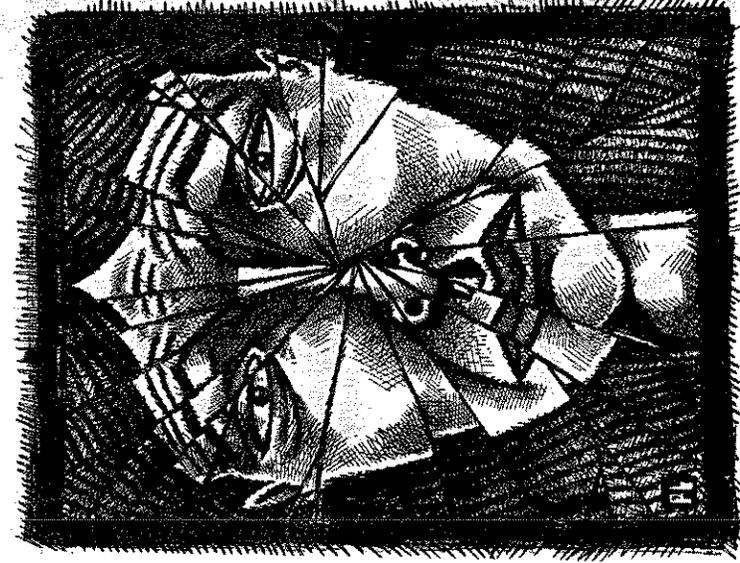


Illustration by Paul Lachine

there is no urgency about this scourge, no marches, no ribbons to be worn at public events, no demonstrations protesting government neglect, no movie stars leading crusades and raising millions to cure, help, nurture, comfort the victims.

I envy the cohesion and political power of the gay community. They speak with a unified voice that makes politicians sit up and listen. AIDS has become the sacred cow of diseases. Everyone is aware of it—it has become a movement, a cause, a sacred mission for countless hundreds of thousands

dedicated and concerned individuals who will probably never get AIDS, but many of whom will be struck by Alzheimer's. Mass marches against AIDS draw tens of thousands. TV screens show demonstrations at the White House demanding government action. The budget cuts last summer never touched any of the funds linked to AIDS.

The unfairness of the overwhelming concern for AIDS and the lukewarm interest for diseases like Alzheimer's is even more striking when one considers that AIDS is unique in that it is almost 100 percent preventable. I am sure that any prospective Alzheimer's sufferer would gladly wear a sheath over any part of his or her body to avoid getting it. I would.

A recent news item tells of a new experimental drug that has been shown to drastically improve human memory. It was invented at the University of California at Irvine—an ampakine compound trade marked as a pill under the name Ampalex. It has been tested successfully and will be tested some more next year. After that there will be more tests, followed by the usual long approval process and, who knows, it might even be available in 5 or 10 years. Can you imagine a drug that had similar results in treating AIDS that would be withheld from the public for 10 years? I can't. There would be demonstrations, riots, hearings. There would be action—quick and immediate. There would be everything that isn't happening with diseases that affect many times as many lives as AIDS, that are not preventable, and strike at random regardless of the life-style of the victim.

I wish the AIDS victims well. I admire and envy the gay community their political clout. They have defended their own and convinced America that AIDS imperils us all. I can only wish—in vain—that we, the rest of us, had the resources and abilities to market the tragedy of Alzheimer's half as effectively.

Si Frumkin is a freelance writer from Studio City, Calif.

To Senator Bob Janda
Here is the CPM you
requested. Win

Senators and Representatives of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing us the time to share our feelings with you regarding the W-2 proposals and the impact it will have on the Wausau community.

I am Father Woody Pace and this is Win Spencer and we are here to represent the Church of St Anne, Wausau.

We are especially concerned about what the consequences of the federal welfare law will have on the legal immigrants who have been in the US for more than five years and will now be denied SSI and Food Stamp benefits because they are not citizens. Our parish has a membership of 87 Hmong families. We share the concerns of the 22 families who will experience loss of income when their SSI or Food Stamps are cut.

Our interest is not only our parish members, but all of the refugees and immigrants who are either elderly or disabled, or striving for self-sufficiency in this country. We are encouraged by the number who have already become citizens, and those who have become gainfully employed or have started their own business. However, there are many who are not citizens because they are not yet ready to take the exam, and there will be many who never will become citizens because of low language skills and inability for

further education. These are the people of whom we speak. Furthermore, the benefit provisions are unjust. For example, according to a recent study by the Urban Institute, immigrants pay \$30 billion more in taxes to the government at all levels than they receive in benefits. Immigrants will be required to pay taxes to federal, state and local governments, but they will not be able to make use of many of the programs that their tax dollars are financing. We have every reason to trust that the younger generation will become educated, employed and more productive, but for now we have a real problem that needs to be addressed at this time.

The money from SSI and their Food Stamps are the only source of income for these people. The loss of SSI also denies them Medicaid or Medical Assistance. Our experience with the Southeast Asian people has shown us that they will do everything in their power to help their family members meet this crisis. However, there are also a number of families who will not have siblings they can turn to and they live in constant fear of the future. We know that when

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we refer to SSI and Food Stamps we are speaking of federal programs that you have no jurisdiction over. Still the State does have recourse to aid programs. We suggest the following:

1. Continue the availability of Medical Assistance to immigrants and refugees.
2. Enact State programs to provide benefits for food, shelter and clothing to immigrants who are no longer eligible to federal assistance.
3. Restore the reduction to Community Aids, the State program benefiting the poor.
4. Redefine grants for Community Service Jobs and Transitional Placement as wages, so the people in those jobs may become eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Our parish has been an active participant in the Wausau 2000 program, a volunteer group of citizens that is trying to address these needs when they no longer qualify and their financial source is discontinued. We are willing to do our share to help these refugees and other welfare recipients, but this will be a very large financial impact and our resources are limited.

If Medical Assistance can be continued it would help the many families who will have to face the income loss. They in no way have the means to take on the health care expenses for elderly or disabled family members.

Please keep these people in mind when you present the budget for passage. These refugees are in this country because our government brought them here for their safety. Because immigration is a much

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larger issue for the federal government, and our hope to solve their dilemma at that level will take more time, we believe that Wisconsin citizens have an obligation through our state government to see that these people who were willing to sacrifice for us during the Vietnam War are not thrown aside at their time of need.



Wisconsin Council 40
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

8033 Excelsior Drive, Suite B
Madison, Wisconsin 53717-1903
Phone: 608 836-4040
Fax: 608 836-4444

Michael Murphy
President
Robert W. Lyons
Executive Director

DATE: April 10, 1997
TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Cal Christianson, Executive Board Member, District #6
RE: Transportation Funding

Thank you for this opportunity to communicate our concerns about transportation funding to the Joint Finance Committee.

AFSCME Council 40 has 29,000 members who work for local units of government and private sector non-profit agencies throughout Wisconsin, excluding Milwaukee County. Our members see the need for additional funding to improve our transportation infrastructure from an economic development perspective. In addition, thousands of our members are county highway department and municipal street department workers who on a daily basis have a first-hand view of the need to invest in our state's transportation system.

For several years now, the state share of funding for local highway and street maintenance has been decreasing as a percentage of total costs. As a result, local government faces a situation where the highway costs of the future could increasingly shift over to the property tax. This could displace funding for other important public sector programs and anger local taxpayers who would unfairly bear the burdens of road programs.

We believe that Wisconsin's road network is a statewide economic development and jobs network that is a statewide responsibility. Manufacturing, services, tourism, agriculture, and forestry all depend on a healthy road network. Investing in this network is a prudent economic development decision.

We applaud the proposal for a three cent (3¢) increase in the gas tax and a ten dollar (\$10.00) increase in the annual motor vehicle registration fee recently advanced by the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin (TDA). While we would not close the door on other possible funding options, the adoption of the TDA proposal would go a long way toward meeting our documented transportation needs. We ask the committee to keep an open mind on all revenue options that could fund needed transportation projects and provide higher levels of transportation aids to local units of government.



in the public service

Members of the Joint Finance Committee

April 10, 1997

Page 2

I would also ask the committee to make one specific modification to the budget that will have a negative impact on many of our members. Section 4137 of the budget (p. 1650) appears to shift the liability for motor vehicle accidents resulting from the operation of a snowplow from the governmental unit to the individual snowplow operator. This may be an unintended consequence of the desire to limit the liability of governmental units arising out of such accidents, which we support. Snowplow operators, however, have enough to worry about in the course of doing their jobs, and should not be subjected to lawsuits for accidents that occur during the course of snow removal operations. We respectfully request that section 4137 be deleted from the budget.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present our concerns.

CC/mmb

Budget Hearing 4/10/97

My name is Melanie Kirsch. I am the executive director of the Northwoods Alliance, an alliance of lake associations, hunting and fishing groups, environmental groups with more than 3000 members. I own my own commercial agency in the advertising industry and am the author of How to Get Off the Fast Track and Live a Life Money Can't Buy, a massmarket paperbook that features Wisconsin as a premier vacation and retirement community.

I am concerned about Governor Thompson's language in the budget regarding mining. It is clearly out of place in the budget and appears to divert attention from the mining moratorium bill. According to the Governor's language, before a permit to mine is granted, the operators of a proposed mine would have to show that a mine will use "proven technology". Under the Governor's proposal, technology that has never been used in a mine could be used to satisfy the "proven technology" requirement, even technology that has only been used in factories or another non-mining situation. The Governor's language would not require any proof that the technology in question has actually worked successfully in a mine of any sort, much less a sulfide metallic mine such as Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine. It also has no requirement that a mining operator prove by example that the technology has worked over a period of time. In contrast, the mining moratorium bill would require a specific example of a metallic, sulfide ore mine that has been operated and reclaimed for 10 years without pollution. The mining moratorium bill has overwhelming public support. Remove this "proven technology" language from the budget because it is vague and meaningless. Allow the mining moratorium bill to pass in the assembly and focus instead on helping to preserve our strong and sustainable Northwoods economy that welcomes environmentally responsible soft industry. Don't betray our priceless beautiful Northwoods. Stop prostituting yourself by selling us off as a mining district.