

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

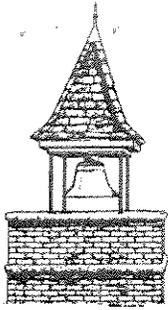
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➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi\_Misc\_pt204

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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# Wausau School District

## Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359  
(715) 261-2500 • FAX (715) 261-2580 • T.D.D. (715) 261-2505

Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**DATE:** April 10, 1997

Berland A. Meyer  
Deputy Superintendent /  
Assistant Superintendent  
Program Development

**TO:** Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Charles Skurka, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cherna A. Gorder  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business

**RE:** Legislative Finance Committee Hearing - Wausau

Joyce C. Saldana, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the needs most urgent to the Wausau School District and to other similar school districts throughout the state of Wisconsin. With the baseball season beginning, one can describe public education in the state as being caught in a "squeeze play" between revenue and program demands.

The Wausau School District, like others in the state, prides itself on the successes of its students and faculty. We believe we offer an excellent program that produces outstanding workers for Wisconsin's business and industry. However, it is now come to a point where we believe the quality of our product will be affected by the revenue we are able to generate to support our programs.

I would like to highlight a few key areas that are being negatively impacted by limits to our revenue generation.

### STAFFING

School districts are "people places." About 83% of our funds are expended on personnel costs. The remaining 17% are consumed by many fixed costs including heat, light, phone, insurance, and transportation.

As staff numbers rise due to increased numbers of students, we find ourselves unable to keep up with associated costs. We are seeing class sizes rise year by year. Parents are telling us they are concerned with this trend as it is not atypical to find elementary classes of 25 to 30 students or freshman classes of 35 students. Reducing these ratios is expensive and out of the range of our existing budget.

In addition, the work load of our counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses has increased greatly. A counselor at our high school is responsible for nearly 400 students. The District cannot afford to reduce these ratios at the expense of classroom teachers – we are caught in the middle and so are the students.

We have tightened our belt over the years. We have eliminated or reduced curriculum coordinators; our same custodial staff services 20% more square footage than it did in 1990; we have grown by over 1100 students since 1990 yet have been able to add only one more psychologist.

Finally, the impact of high cost students (those who are classified as having Exceptional Educational Needs or who are Limited English Proficient) have a doubling impact on our District. These students not only require the support of the regular classroom teacher, but also that of one or more special teachers. Because of the funding formula we are unable to recover these additional costs; thus, the general program for all students must be reduced to meet the needs of these students. It is unfair for this to occur.

We need your assistance to bring about a change in the way high cost students are counted for aid purposes. This single change would greatly help us to continue to provide a high quality program in a cost-effective manner.

### PROGRAMMING

Limits on revenue generation have caused difficulties in providing contemporary programming to our students. Recently the state mandated that all students have access to a foreign language at seventh grade. Without any increase in revenue generation, we are unable to comply with that mandate. Our District cannot afford to hire the additional 4.0 teachers that would be needed to implement such a program.

We believe, as a District, in the high worth of early intervention programming for students. Research says that for every dollar invested in the early years, a district can save five dollars later on. Programs like Reading Recovery, Early Reading Intervention, all day kindergarten, etc., work. Yet we are unable to find the funds to ensure that these programs are part of our instructional offerings.

Finally, programming for School-to-Work initiatives is being reduced as competition for scarce resources becomes more acute. Apprentice programs such as Auto Technician and Banking and Finance are in jeopardy. We cannot afford to retain programming for limited numbers of students at the expense of the core curriculum. In an era when we should be expanding vocational/technical opportunities, we and other districts are reducing them.

### TECHNOLOGY

The final area I want to highlight is the growing cost for support of technology. We want to be current; we want to provide experiences for our students that business and industry find valuable; we want to be "world class," and we want our children to be technologically literate. However, the truth of the matter is, we cannot afford it.

Our five-year technology plan calls for a yearly expenditure of \$2.5 million dollars for staff, computers, software, Internet access, maintenance, licensing agreements, and staff development. In fact, we spent only \$400,000 last year. While that may sound like a great deal of money it represents only .5% of the District's budget instead of the 3-4% recommended as appropriate.

Each year we fall farther and farther behind. Students complete work at home because they have access to more advanced equipment and current software cannot run on "older" machines, which dominates our computer inventory.

New loans provided by the state are a start, but the repayment is subject to the review cap. Money was provided for technology grants to school districts, but it was taken from the common school funds -- out of one pocket and into the other. The cost of Internet connection is high and is rapidly becoming the third utility cost for districts. We have recently considered computerizing our elementary school libraries, but abandoned that idea after we discovered the cost to be over \$50,000 per site.

If the state truly wants its schools to be leaders in the world in the use of technology, then it must relieve us from the limitation of including technology under the revenue caps. Allow those purchases to be outside the cap restrictions.

### OTHER CURTAILMENTS

Construction and general repair costs have risen at a rate greater than the CPI. For the past three years, the CPI has been approximately 3% with construction/repair costs increasing 6-7% annually.

LP gas used in three of our rural schools increased 25% this past year. Natural gas prices were 15% higher at the beginning of the recent heating season.

Non-salary benefit items should be left under the discretion of local control with the salary/benefit cap left in place. The revenue cap is not needed. It exacerbates the losses from the non-salary/benefit portion of the budget when salary/benefit caps are at 3.8% with a revenue cap at 3% or lower.

In the Wausau School District, the preliminary 1997-98 budget is in the red by just rolling up 3.8% on salary/benefits for existing positions. We will have difficulty adding the projected, needed new staff due to our increase in enrollment.

#### SUMMARY

In summary, we are asking that you:

1. provide fiscal relief to school districts for the impact of "high cost" students who enter our classrooms;
2. provide additional support for programs such as School-to-Work and programs that support early intervention for students, provide funding required to implement imposed curricular standards, or eliminate those mandates;
3. allow technology purchases to be outside the revenue caps and allow the District to develop contemporary programming to meet the needs of Wisconsin's business and industry; and
4. remove the revenue caps for districts, but retain the salary/benefit cap.

Thank for the opportunity to present these concerns. Attached is support documentation for each committee member.

Attachments



# Wausau School District

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Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**April 10, 1997**

Berland A. Meyer  
Deputy Superintendent /  
Assistant Superintendent  
Program Development

**TO: Joint Committee on Finance  
Legislative Finance Committee Hearing - Wausau**

Cherna A. Gorder  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business

**FROM: Wausau School District  
Dr. Charles Skurka, Superintendent of Schools  
Cherna A. Gorder, Assistant Superintendent for Business**

Joyce C. Saldana, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources

**Dear Committee Members:**

**Enclosed is an impact statement on revenue limits for the Wausau School District. The impact statement and supporting documents illustrate how the limits have "eroded" the Wausau School District's revenue base limit.**

**The three major impacts have been in English as a Second Language, Exceptional Educational Needs, and, the Chapter 220 program. The enclosed summary shows the growth in EEN and ESL expenditures since the revenue limit base year of 1992-93. The expenditures, less the state reimbursement, equals the remaining net growth in costs. These costs were absorbed in our revenue limit base.**

**The Chapter 220 program began in 1993-94. The DPI disallowed an exemption request, therefore, all costs for this program were absorbed out of our revenue limit base. However, because the Chapter 220 aid is treated as equalization aid, Wausau School District taxpayers did benefit.**

**The remaining costs are for new buildings and new construction. The estimate was conservative using only utility costs for the new square footage. The projected revenue limit base for 1997-98 is \$60,757,289 with \$3,020,755 representing 4.97% of the base.**

**Should you have any questions regarding the impact on the Wausau School District, please contact our office at 715-261-2570.**

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Programs Impacting Revenue Limits**

February 24, 1997

ESL	ESL Expenditures	ESL Reim	NET COST Deduct Rev Limit
1995-96	2,587,282	654,637	
1992-93	1,517,468	502,889	
Diff	1,069,814	151,748	918,066

EEN	EEN Expenditures	EEN Reim	
1995-96	6,827,796	2,953,557	
1992-93	5,037,803	2,423,913	
Diff	1,789,993	529,644	1,260,349

**Chapter 220 Costs\*\*** **579,838**

\*\* received as equalization aid (property tax relief)  
but not allowed to increase revenue limit.

**New Construction - Utility costs only:**

Horace Mann	141,834	
John Muir	38,466	
G.D. Jones	16,900	
Jefferson	27,302	
South Mountain	38,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>262,502</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,020,755</b>

# WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

## HANDICAPPED ENROLLMENT HISTORY

DECEMBER 1, 1996

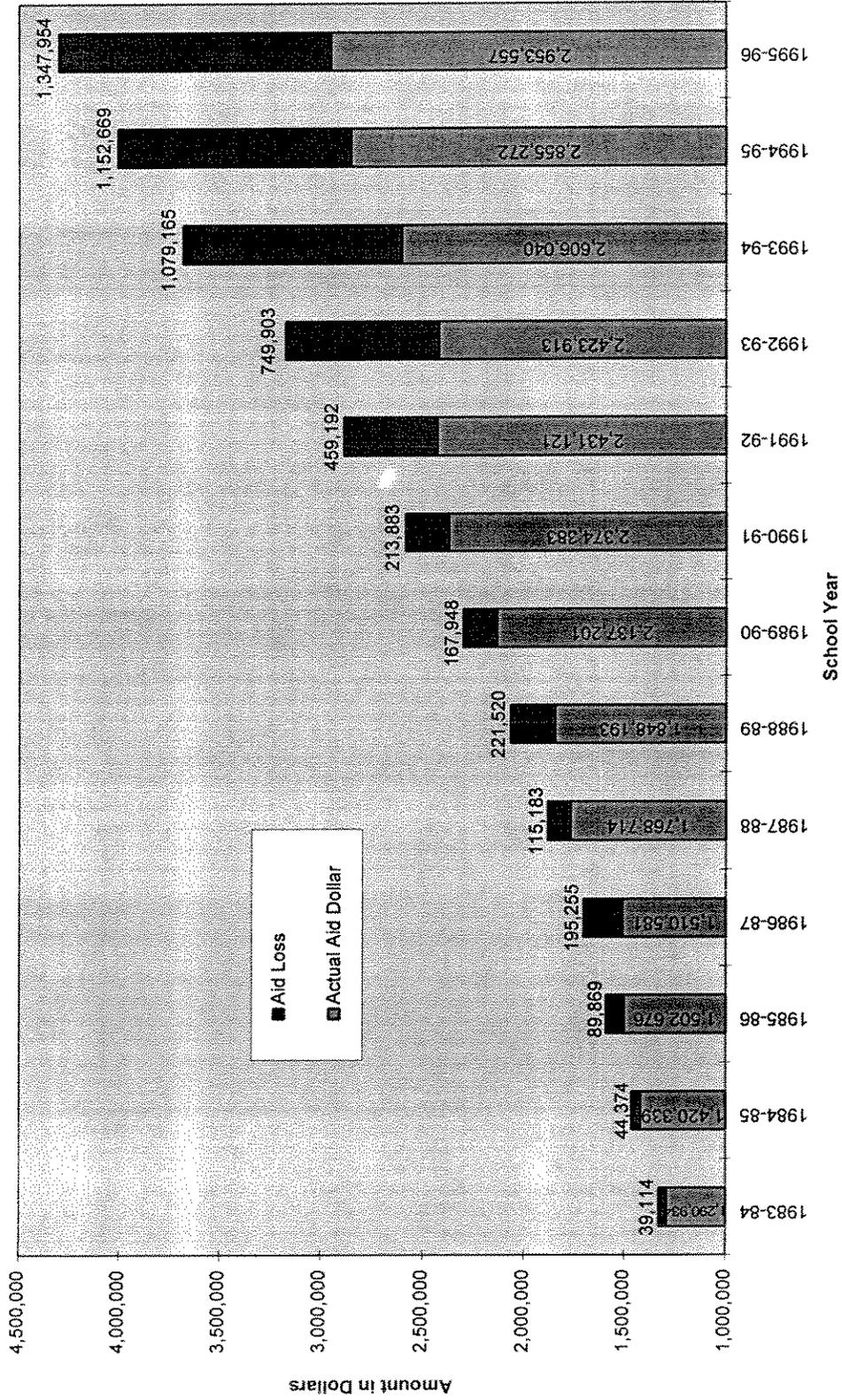
YEAR	*NUMBER STUDENTS	INCREASE PER YEAR	PERCENT INCREASE	DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	EEN PERCENT
1984-85	619	6	0.98%	7,444	8.32%
1985-86	664	45	7.27%	7,478	8.88%
1986-87	612	-52	-7.83%	7,556	8.10%
1987-88	632	20	3.27%	7,731	8.17%
1988-89	697	65	10.28%	7,813	8.92%
1989-90	691	-6	-0.86%	7,949	8.69%
1990-91	687	-4	-0.58%	8,229	8.35%
1991-92	753	66	9.61%	8,449	8.91%
1992-93	865	112	14.87%	8,773	9.86%
1993-94	913	48	5.55%	8,791	10.38%
1994-95	975	62	6.79%	8,917	10.93%
1995-96	971	-4	-0.41%	9,060	10.71%
1996-97	1,026	55	5.66%	9,196	11.15%

66% - Increase in handicapped enrollment over twelve years

23.5% - Increase in district enrollment over twelve years

\*Number of students with disabilities includes students from private schools and early childhood EEN students.

# History of Handicapped Aid Funding For The Wausau School District

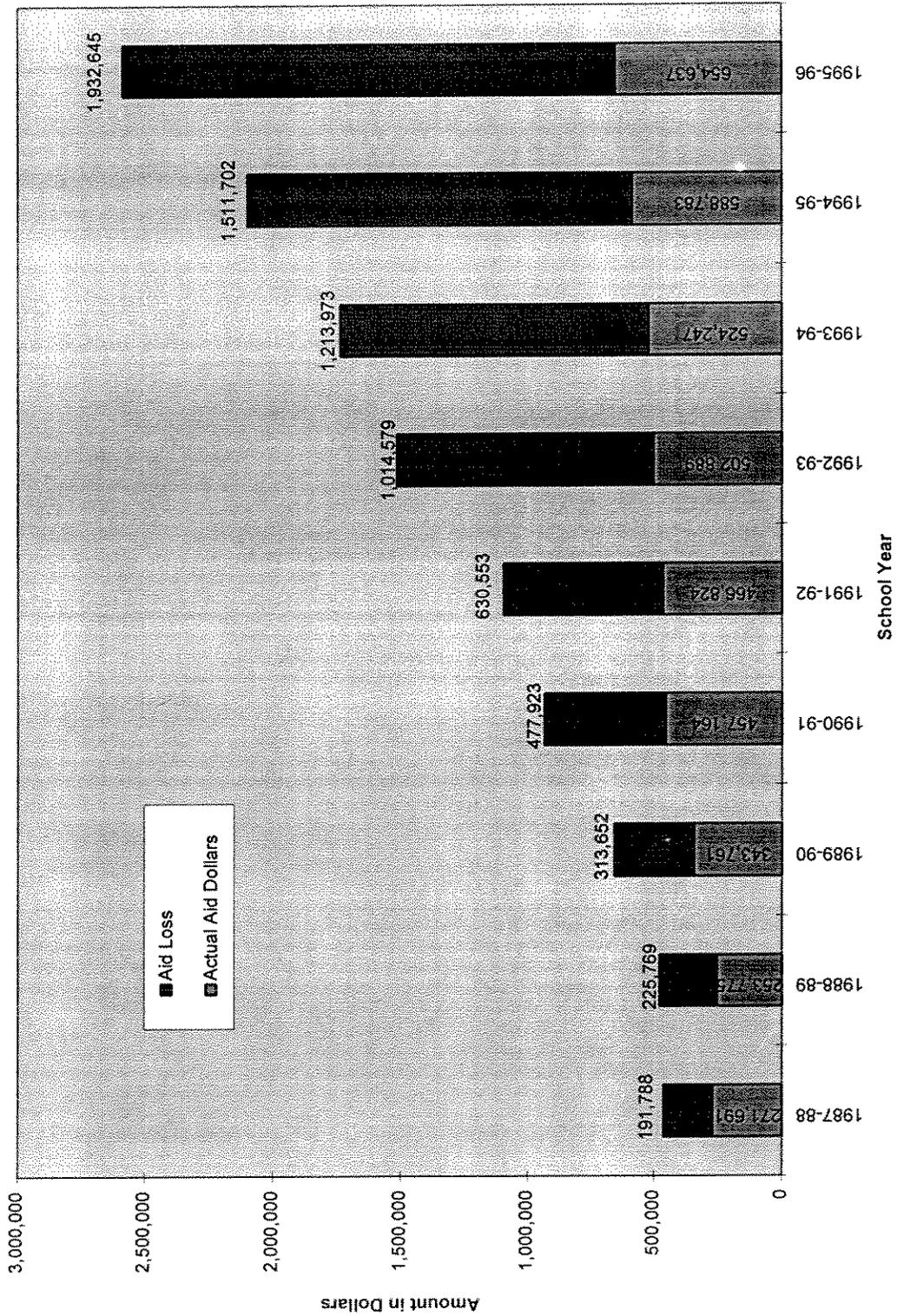


# ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 17, 1997

YEAR	ESL PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT REIMBURSEMENT	STATE REIMBURSEMENT	UNFUNDED PROGRAM COSTS
1987-88	463,479	58.62%	271,691	191,788
1988-89	479,544	52.92%	253,775	225,769
1989-90	657,413	52.29%	343,761	313,652
1990-91	935,087	48.89%	457,164	477,923
1991-92	1,097,377	42.54%	466,824	630,553
1992-93	1,517,468	33.14%	502,889	1,014,579
1993-94	1,738,220	30.16%	524,247	1,213,973
1994-95	2,100,485	28.03%	588,783	1,511,702
1995-96	2,587,282	25.30%	654,637	1,932,645
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,576,355</b>		<b>4,063,771</b>	<b>7,512,584</b>

# ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT



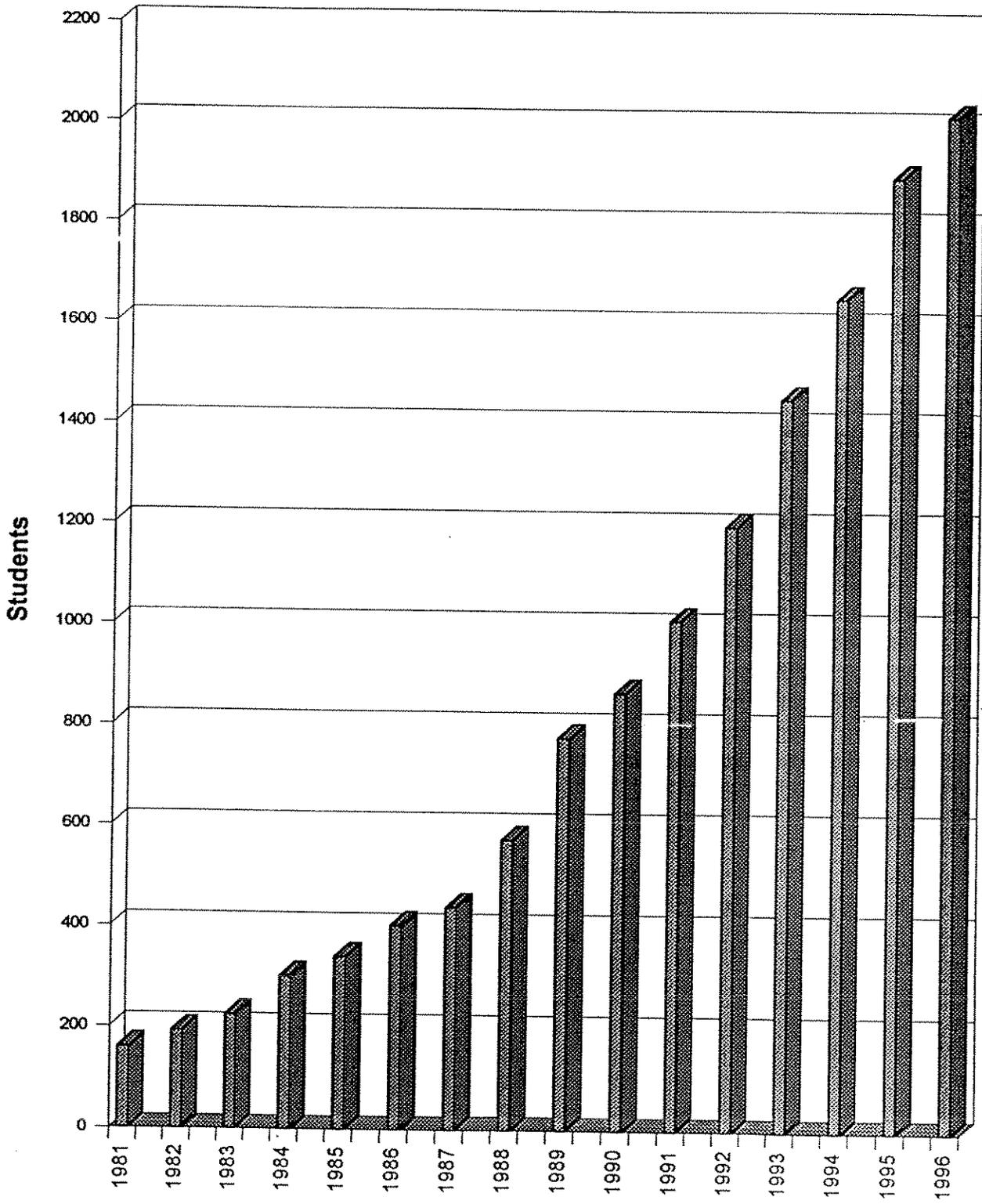
## EEN AID & COSTS - WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 17, 1996

YEAR	TOTAL PROGRAM \$	% REIMBURSEMENT	ACTUAL AID DOLLARS	STATUTORY AID-63%	AID LOSS
1982-83	1,542,483	63.93%	986,115	971,764	-14,351
1983-84	2,111,187	61.15%	1,290,934	1,330,048	39,114
1984-85	2,324,941	61.09%	1,420,339	1,464,713	44,374
1985-86	2,527,849	59.44%	1,502,676	1,592,545	89,869
1986-87	2,707,676	55.79%	1,510,581	1,705,836	195,255
1987-88	2,990,312	59.15%	1,768,714	1,883,897	115,183
1988-89	3,285,259	56.26%	1,848,193	2,069,713	221,520
1989-90	3,658,967	58.41%	2,137,201	2,305,149	167,948
1990-91	4,108,358	57.79%	2,374,383	2,588,266	213,883
1991-92	4,587,798	52.99%	2,431,121	2,890,313	459,192
1992-93	5,037,803	48.11%	2,423,913	3,173,816	749,903
1993-94	5,849,532	44.55%	2,606,040	3,685,205	1,079,165
1994-95	6,361,811	44.88%	2,855,272	4,007,941	1,152,669
1995-96	6,827,796	43.26%	2,953,557	4,301,511	1,347,954
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>53,921,772</b>		<b>28,109,039</b>	<b>33,970,716</b>	<b>5,861,677</b>

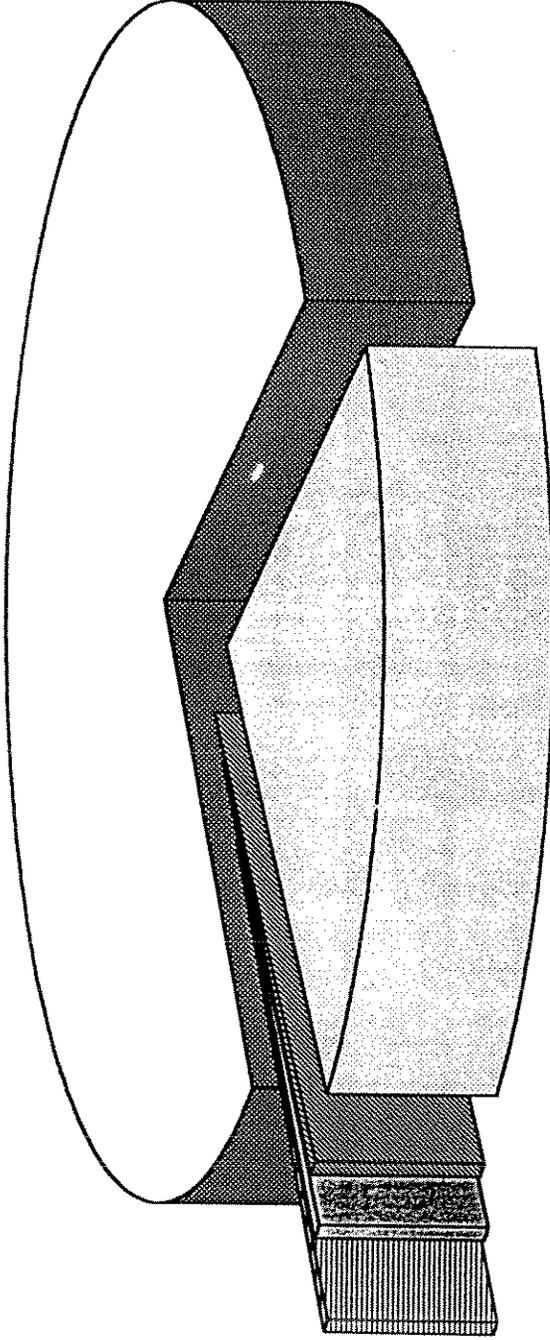
**342.65% - Increase in handicapped expenditures since 1982-83**

# Southeast Asian Enrollments in the Wausau School District



# WSD ETHNIC ENROLLMENTS

9/20/96



- ASIAN
- BLACK
- HISPANIC
- NATIVE AMERICAN
- WHITE

# County of Wood \ OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

GARY F. POPELKA, AICP

Director

Courthouse-400 Market Street

P. O. Box 8095

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

Telephone: (715) 421-8466

FAX: (715) 421-8808

April 10, 1997

Joint Finance Committee  
C/O Sen. Kevin Shibilski  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Honorable Chair, and Committee Members:

Having reviewed the language in the biennial budget, I have a number of concerns with the current legislative proposal to abolish the Wisconsin Land Information Board and give program responsibilities to the Department of Administration. My testimony will focus on suggestions to strengthen the bill as it pertains to the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) and the Wisconsin Land Council (WLC).

## Specific Actions

I am requesting that the Joint Finance Committee remove from the Budget Bill all references that eliminate the Wisconsin Land Information Board and transfer the governance and funding of the Wisconsin Land Information Program to the Department of Administration. These issues are defined in the Governor's Budget in sections 44, 51, 133 through 142, 669, 672 and 673, 682 through 684, 774 and 775, 1156, 1164, 2164, 2175 through 2178.

As a County Planner, I am in full support of the Wisconsin Land Council and would support modification to the existing WLIB and land information program that assist WLC. Specifically I support adding one (1) seat on the WLIB representing the WLC, adding land use mapping as a foundational element to the program, and supporting parallel sunsets and evaluations for the WLC and WLIB so that their relationship can be monitored and improved over time.

## Background

Over the past six months, the proposed legislative changes I'm addressing have been presented to the land information community by the Department of Administration as a positive step forward to move the governance responsibilities of the WLIB to the proposed WLC. However the language included in the budget bill pertaining to the WLC's duties and responsibilities, fails to include any reference to land information related activities currently addressed by the WLIB. Thus the promises of program administration by a representative body have not carried through.

We have asked the drafters of this legislation to include the positive aspects of the land information program that have made it the success it is. These points included:

**Maintain the functional integrity of the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), including:**

- Preserving the legislative charges of the program.
- Maintain the strong connection between the land information community and the policy body managing the program.

**Maintain the segregated funding that supports the activities of the WLIP.**

**Maintain the dedicated staff and staff positions assigned to administer the WLIP.**

- Ensure the transfer of incumbent employees.
- Ensure the transfer of position descriptions.

**Preserve the body of expertise governing the WLIP. For example;**

- an independent representative body for the WLIP,
- "what" the WLIP represents,
- advisory positions currently supporting the WLIP,
- Wisconsin Land Information Association involvement, and
- participation by local interests.

We do not see in this budget bill, the language that ensure all of these request have been considered. These issues are vital to the continuation of a successful, ground up, approach to modernizing land information throughout Wisconsin. Without support for the items listed above, I will not be able to support this legislative effort.

The land information responsibilities of the WLIP are broad and designed to serve all levels and program areas of Wisconsin government. For example, the WLIP was specifically designed to support activities like the WLC (i.e., laying the information foundation for land use planning), along with supporting other programs such as parcel map development, surveying, and property records management. It is likely that placing land information responsibilities under a program-specific area will favor the modernization of one type of information over others or interrupt activities already underway under the current WLIP program.

The Land Information Program, under the direction of the WLIP has been a very positive addition in Wood County. The Land Information Board has been instrumental in creating an atmosphere of change for land records at the County. In the six years the program has been in place, Wood County has invested nearly \$300,000 in modernized land records, including new parcel maps, E-911 address mapping for emergency dispatch, and multiple map layers used by Planning & Zoning, Land Conservation, Park & Forestry, and many others.

This is not a money issue, we are not asking for dollars. Our program is self sufficient and we are satisfied with our current level of funding. This issue is related to continuing a successful modernization program, and does not belong in a budget bill. Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Hansen, Planner, Wood County

Past President, Wisconsin Land Information Association



Headquarters Library  
300 North 1st Street  
Wausau, WI 54403-5473  
715-847-5400

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LIBRARIES IN: Athens, Edgar, Marathon, Mosinee, Rothschild, Schofield, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau

## STATE OF WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 10, 1997

The most important library priority for the next state budget is inclusion of public libraries in the proposed TEACH Wisconsin program.

The Teach Wisconsin proposal provides support for public schools, technical colleges and universities to purchase computers, wire the schools, train the teachers and connect the schools to BadgerNet, the statewide telecommunications network.

Missing from this program is support for public libraries to link in the same way with these electronic information sources.

The residents of Wisconsin expect to find the traditional library with books, get assistance doing research yet also have the electronic sources they need when they come into the library.

Just as libraries have always provided books for people of all ages, they now must also offer public access to computer resources, which now is often the only place to find the information needed.

The library is the place for everyone, student or non-student, to connect to the information available in both print and non-print.

The 381 public libraries in Wisconsin are there for the more than 5 million people who live in this state.

In Marathon County last year, an average of 1000 people visited the headquarters library each day it was open. Our newly constructed branch libraries saw increases in use throughout the year.

People requested over 50,000 specific titles through our computer catalog, showing that a significant interest in books still exists.

Over 38,000 people attended family and children's programs in 1996.

More than 82,000 informational questions were answered for the public in 1996. Many of the searches required using the Internet and other computer sources to find the information needed.

We have worked to keep our libraries as the central focus in our communities throughout the county providing support for students doing homework and for the public to access the Internet and other types of information available.

While we have been able to provide a basic level of computer resources to our public, we fall behind in our efforts because of rapidly changing technology.

At Marathon County Public Library, we were fortunate to get funding from the Educational Technology Board for a telecommunications upgrade which has the potential to enhance the level of electronic information available in our libraries. We had planned to submit additional projects in the future to assist with the next phase of upgrade but funding from that source will apparently soon be transferred to the TEACH Wisconsin program and will no longer be available to public libraries.

We see the need for TEACH Wisconsin and support its purpose in the schools. However, compatibility and an even level of technology between schools and public libraries must be maintained to insure that the children being trained to use the electronic sources also have those available at the public library. In the future when they have completed formal education and are updating job skills as adults, they will also need to have the most current sources available.

Two important changes have been proposed that impact negatively on public libraries.

First, public libraries have lost the opportunity to apply for funds through the Educational Technology Board.

Second, funding for public libraries in the TEACH Wisconsin program was not included.

I am asking you to include public libraries in the Governor's TEACH Wisconsin Plan so that public libraries can be there to support lifelong education and learning for Wisconsin's residents.

A method for including public libraries has been offered by Senator Calvin Potter, Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries. The library community supports this proposal. We ask that you give it serious consideration.

Thank you.



Mary Bethke  
Library Director

Senator Calvin Potter, Chairperson  
Joint Legislative Council's Special  
Committee on Public Libraries

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53 702

Dear Governor Thompson,

At its February 18, 1997 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries, by a unanimous roll call vote, directed me, as Chairperson of the Committee, to indicate to you their strongest desire that your 1997-99 Budget Bill be amended to include the following items relating to public libraries and, in a very significant way, to your proposed TEACH Wisconsin initiative in the budget:

**Information Technology Block Grants.** Provide \$2,500,000 in fiscal year (FY) 1997-98 and \$4,000,000 in FY 1998-99 for information technology block grants to public libraries and systems to purchase networked computer system, equipment and associated software.

**Technical Assistance Grants for Public Library Systems.** Provide \$1,020,000 in FY 1997-98, and \$1,500,000 in FY 1998-99 for public library systems to provide programs and additional system staff, or to contract for services, to support public library technology programs. This proposal envisions possible cooperation with cooperative educational service agency (CESA) districts in providing the necessary training and education for library staff.

**Internet and Video Access.** Provide \$716,400 in FY 1997-98 and \$740,000 in FY 1998-99 to equalize the cost of telecommunications services to ensure that all public libraries and systems are able to access a high speed data link for no more than \$250/month for both direct Internet access and two-way video linkages.

**BadgerNet Access for Systems.** Provide \$340,000 in FY 1997-98 and \$350,000 in FY 1998-99 for public libraries and systems to link libraries, provide Internet access, and other services through BadgerNet, the State's new telecommunications network

**Library Wiring Loan Debt Service.** Provide \$25,000 in FY 1997-98 and \$500,000 in FY 1998-99 for library wiring loan debt service.

**Library Wiring loans.** Provide \$5,000,000 annually for *loans* to public libraries and systems to upgrade electrical and network wiring and equipment, recognizing that many older libraries have insufficient electrical capacity or lack network wiring to support the demands of today's computer networks.

The Special Committee feels that this funding is in keeping with, and a necessary adjunct to, your TEACH proposal since public libraries are, Ultimately, one of the most vital elements of that proposal. Wisconsin's public library systems have made tremendous progress over the past decade in improving the coordination of library services and ensuring access to library resources for all the residents of the state. Without a major investment in technology, Wisconsin risks not only losing its leadership position among the states, but more importantly not being able to provide the type and level of services your proposed program, and the people of this state, require. Many Wisconsin public libraries do not have direct access to the Internet. These libraries have only dial-up access or no access. Only a limited number of libraries report direct access to the Internet, with most reporting slow speed dial-up connections and only one workstation. Direct access provides the capability to network the Internet throughout library systems, thereby allowing large numbers of students and citizens to use the Internet for information access and lifelong learning.

The Special Committee requests, and most strongly recommends, that you consider amending the Budget to include all of the public library-related items set forth above. They are vital not only to maintaining the continued excellence of one of the most valued services to the people and students of Wisconsin, but to the success and meaningfulness of your TEACH Wisconsin proposal.

Sincerely,

Senator Calvin Potter, Chairperson  
Joint Legislative Council's Special  
Committee on Public Libraries

## PRESENTATION JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE, 4-10-97

I am speaking on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of students seeking an affordable and quality education in our University of Wisconsin System now and in the future. Funding for this system is provided about 1/3 by tuitions and about 2/3rds by the State from General Purpose Revenue (GPR). An exception to this is the flagship Madison campus which receives about 1/3 of its funding from research grants.

Discussion of this funding is our purpose today. Only a few highlights will be mentioned.

First of all, we should keep in mind that increasing knowledge and technology have increased the costs of quality education – just as they have of quality health care. Unfortunately, from the standpoint of quality education, Wisconsin's standing versus other states' has fallen in recent years. To reverse this decline, new and significant additional dollars are needed for equipment, for programming and – most importantly – for competitive compensation for teaching faculty.

Because of Wisconsin's insidiously increasing budget constrictions over the past few biennia, there has been a significant brain drain both at the flagship Madison campus and at other campuses. Let us highlight this problem with some data from the Marathon campus where virtually all faculty are Ph.D.s:

1. Over the past few biennia salary increases have been low and in a few years, absent. As of now, the average salary is less than the K1-12 or Northcentral Technical College. These low salaries have caused two excellent faculty to leave for higher paying positions elsewhere. Because of them, we are losing out to competition in other states.
2. Starting salaries are about 5% less than peer campuses across the nation.
3. Older faculty are retiring and the low salaries are making replacement difficult. For example, in the past five years there have been eleven retirees, but only four replacements.
4. It is clear that these salary problems should be corrected.

Let's consider the sources of fund for the UW System beyond research grants. The previous biennial budget provided a GPR of \$841M per year for the UW System. In the last biennium Wisconsin was alone among Big 10 states to reduce funding. All other states increased it and four had increases of more than 11%. Wisconsin's GPR support for the UW System adjusted for inflation has decreased 17.4% since 1973 and lagged behind the national average by 13% over the last decade. These days it seems easier to find State money for prisons and baseball stadiums than it does for education. For a State with such a high reputation and tradition for quality education, this is a tragedy. If at all possible, a return to or toward the previous higher levels of GPR funding should be done.

Student tuitions provide about 1/3 of the funding. Some have criticized the tuition levels as too high and/or as increasing too much. The facts indicate these criticisms are wrong. The truth is that UW System tuition fees, when compared to peer institutions, are low. For example, the tuition at the UW Madison ranks 8<sup>th</sup> of 9 peer institutions; at Milwaukee, 11<sup>th</sup> of 15 peer institutions; at the 11 four-year comprehensives, 31<sup>st</sup> of 35 peer institutions; and at the 13 two-year campuses, currently some 10 plus percent less than that of the comprehensives.

This particular tuition discrepancy represents a special problem. In 1983 the tuitions at these two classes of institutions were equal. Gradually, the tuition at the two-year campuses was decreased so that by 1992 it was only 81.8% of the comprehensives. At this point efforts were made to correct this discrepancy by gradually increasing this percentage to 87% by the year 2000. Even then a significant dollar discrepancy would remain and the current plan is to continue this 87% differential over subsequent years which, if not altered, will result in a progressive increase in this dollar discrepancy each year. It has been estimated that by the year 2010, adherence to this 87% formula will result in a shortfall for the Centers of in excess of \$5.0M. Be that as it may, it is clear that student tuitions must be increased to adequately fund the UW System.

In conclusion, thank you again for considering these comments. A few of the problems of the UW System developing over the past few millennia have been briefly presented. The Proposed Budget for the UW Systems represents a good start towards correcting these problems and – if the funding proposed cannot be even further increased – I strongly urge support for this Budget. Additionally, the proposal to grant the Board of Regents flexible authority for up to 105% of the tuition revenue provides a long overdue management tool one strongly urges the Committee to support.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. Freeman, M.D.  
Member of the Board of Visitors for the UW Center System  
1925 Townline Road  
Wausau, WI 54403

**TO: Joint Finance Committee**

**DATE: April 10, 1997**

**RE: Transfer of School AODA Programs from DPI to DHSF (Assembly Bill  
100/Senate Bill 77 - Governor's Budget)**

The transfer of school based state AODA program dollars from the DPI to the Department of Health and Family Services will have a tremendous impact on the Wausau School District prevention programs. This proposal would be very destructive to the current AODA prevention programs in our school district.

The state AODA program dollars involve the grants for Families and School Together, AODA Program grants, Student mini-grants, and Fellowship grants. The proposal would hamper the coordination of AODA programs with the other student service programs. DPI, not DHFS, administers school psychologist and social worker, school age parents, school based AIDS prevention, pregnancy prevention, school health, school nursing, alcohol and traffic safety, family involvement in education, guidance and counseling, and children at-risk programs.

School based prevention is not an "add on" program or service that can be separated from curriculum development, student assistance programs and peer programs. These programs have been integrated into a comprehensive school based curriculum that serves all students and are supported by school/community partnership prevention efforts. This proposal would splinter the last ten years' efforts in prevention.

In the Wausau School District, funding for the 1996-97 school year has provided for Student Peer Leadership Programs and training at the elementary, middle and high school levels. School staff have been trained in AODA CORE and Group Facilitation. The training offers accurate knowledge about alcohol and drug abuse as it affects our youth and their families and it sensitizes us to the desperation, rigidity, hopelessness, and pain that many of our students, and adults too, feel because of some form of alcohol and drug abuse.

Please do not take away the resources that make these and many other programs possible. They are the most effective tools we have to help our students lead healthy, drug-free lives.

Submitted by:

Gail Knaack, AOD Coordinator  
Wausau School District

415 Seymour St.  
Wausau WI 54403



TO: Joint Finance Committee

DATE: April 10, 1997

RE: Increase of Cigarette excise tax

Please accept my written testimony in support of increasing the cigarette tax by 28 cents in 1997 and 28 cents in 1998. Raising the cigarette excise fee by at least \$ .50 per pack will: protect children from tobacco addiction; save Wisconsin residents from the preventable illness and premature death that results from smoking; and increase state revenue for tax relief and other critical needs.

Research indicates that **adults don't start smoking - kids do!** In the past 10 years, tobacco addiction has become a "pediatric disease." Each day about sixty Wisconsin kids start smoking. One quarter of them will die from their nicotine addiction.

**Wisconsin kids smoke more than other kids in the nation.** Last year, for the first time youth smoking in Wisconsin outpaced that of the nation. Thirty-seven percent of Wisconsin kids in the 9-12 grade reported smoking as opposed to 34% in the rest of the nation. (Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey-1996)

**Wisconsin kids smoke more than adults.** While the number of adult smokers has declined, smoking among kids has grown. Due to the great difficulty in quitting the nicotine addiction, we may have major increases in cancer and other tobacco related illnesses thirty years from now. (Division of Health Behavior Risk Survey, 1996)

**The Tobacco Industry spends \$100 million in Wisconsin each year.** This means \$400 for each 12-18 year old in billboards, magazine ads, give away and cigarette displays targeted to kids. The state spends almost nothing to help kids make one of the most important decision of their lives. (The industry spent over \$5 billion making and promoting cigarettes nationally. Wisconsin comprises 2% of the national population.)

As the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Coordinator for the Wausau School District, I can tell you it is not uncommon for me to hear comments from 14-16 year old students like "I wish I could stop smoking, but I just can't!" I can also tell you that we have students in fourth and fifth grades experimenting with tobacco.

Please help me ensure a healthier tomorrow for our children and support a minimum increase of 56 cents excise fee per package on cigarette and tobacco products so kids will learn now that they cannot afford to smoke!

Gail Knaack, AOD Coordinator  
Wausau School District



415 Seymour St. Wausau, WI 54403

Sid Sorensen  
The Cleaning Center Laundromat  
3820 Stewart Avenue  
Wausau, WI 54401

April 9, 1997

Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
Madison, WI

It is my desire to express my opposition to the idea of taxing receipts from coin operated laundries.

A tax on the class of people that use coin operated laundries may well be taxing those that can least afford additional taxes. From what I observe of the people in the laundry, a large portion appear to be a lower income class.

The other problem is how do we charge 5.5% tax? The machines are on \$.25 intervals. For us to collect the tax means the customer will pay a much larger percentage.

I hope for the good of all this tax idea is not implemented.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Sorensen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sid Sorensen

222 McMillen  
Eau Claire, Wi  
April 8, 1997

Dear Committee,

I am distressed to hear of the cuts you are considering in the Extension budget which would lead to significant cuts in Wisconsin Public Radio. I've lived in seven states and we in Wisconsin have the best public radio system of any. As a print-impaired (blind) person, I count on public radio for timely and fair world, national and local news. I use information I've gained from Wisconsin Public Radio in my lectures and counseling work at UWEC.

When you're acting on the budget, please do not forget those of us who can't just run down to the newsstand and pick up a newspaper or magazine and leave our Wisconsin Public Radio budget intact. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Schneider

Jean Lamb  
1628 Mitscher Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

April 7, 1997

Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities  
Committee Chairperson Rob Kreibich

Dear Sir:

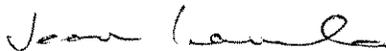
I am an emeriti faculty member of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I listen to Wisconsin Public Radio for several hours every day, primarily WUEC for the indepth news and classical music but also WHWC on occasion. I have listened to Wisconsin Public Radio since the mid-seventies and have found no other station as compatible with my tastes.

I have supported Wisconsin Public Radio financially for twenty-five years and, since retirement, I have further supported the local station by volunteering on a weekly basis and for Pledge Drives and auctions.

I would like to ask the committee to consider all of the ramifications of financial cuts which will impact on the quality and service of Wisconsin Public Radio, of all of the residents of the state who depend upon this service for whom there is no comparable alternative. I would ask you then to support changing the Governor's proposed budget to reduce or eliminate the 5% cut in UW-Extension or to exempt public radio from that reduction.

I would like to ask the committee also to recognize the competitive market for quality faculty in the nation and therefore the need to support full funding for the 4% salary increases in the UW System to give incentive for retention and recruitment of highly qualified faculty.

Sincerely,



Jean Lamb

cc: Wisconsin State Legislative Joint Finance Committee

April 8, 1997

MEMO

To: Committee on Joint Finance, State of Wisconsin

From: Janet Carson, Senior Citizen, Eau Claire

Re: Proposed reduction of WPR's State support by 12 %

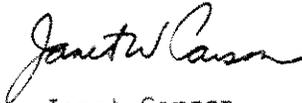
Wisconsin Public Radio has worked hard to raise money to replace State reductions. This is the second biennium in a row in which the portion of UW Extension that includes WPR has been subjected to targeted cuts. These cuts at this time will result in significant damage to WPR.

I listen faithfully to WHWC and WUEC. As a senior citizen my days are brightened and stimulated by classical music as well as the Ideas network.

These stations are my constant friends. As an artist I have given generously over the past years not only in cash donations, but also through my paintings, auctioned for WPR's benefit.

The quality of my life and that of countless other senior citizens will be greatly diminished if these cuts are made.

Sincerely,



Janet Carson

April 10, 1997

Joint Finance Committee  
Committee on Colleges and Universities

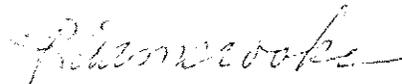
Legislators:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views about the pending budget cut for Wisconsin Public Radio. It must always be difficult to balance the State budget and to sift and winnow the many requests for funding and the demands that a State budget entails.

I have nothing but admiration for those of you who serve our State and make the decisions that never carry with them a complete consensus of the public, nor often times of your particular constituents or even fellow party members. Though never having served in an elective office I have been on many governmental boards such as the 51:42 board of Marathon, Lincoln and Langlade Counties, the Wausau Planning Commission and on the State level, the Wallace Commission on State-Local relationships, and therefore, in a small way have been in decision making situations.

But my appreciation of the job you do not only comes from my own experience and a deep feeling for our government, but also because I can easily stay informed on current issues on the Wisconsin scene by the fine coverage that Wisconsin Public Radio gives its listenership in the political arena. I choose to listen to WPR because it interviews opponents on the different issues and introduces me, in that way, to many members of our legislative body....I choose WPR over the "shock jocks" so to speak, who seek to promote their own reputations and enhance their pocket-books by bias, half truths and deviousness. That kind of coverage so often found on many (not all) commercial stations adds too much salt and too much bitterness to the broth of our democracy. Then we wonder why people are turned off to government and politics! Reasoned discourse and a fair presentation of all sides of many issues is the gift Wisconsin Public Radio gives to the State...It is a service that you in the political arena should be not only grateful for, but indeed supportive in any and all ways possible.

I urge you as individuals, and as a Committee, to maintain the level of support now given by the State to Wisconsin Public Radio...It is indeed, not even enough, considering the cuts incurred from the previous years and by the Federal Government.



Rita M. Crooks  
A fan of WPR for 38 years



# COUNTY OF MARATHON

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

LAKEVIEW PROFESSIONAL PLAZA  
1200 LAKE VIEW DRIVE, RM 200  
WAUSAU, WI 54403-6797  
TEL., FAX & TDD (715) 848-9060

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 10, 1997

I am the Director of Preventive Health Services of Marathon County Health Department. Today I would like to speak in support of increasing the excise tax on cigarettes from 44 cents to \$1 per pack and that the subsequent revenues (estimated at \$40,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 1997-99 biennium) be used to establish a tobacco prevention and education program.

As the Director of Preventive Health Services for this county, I am most interested in strategies our community can employ that will prevent disease and promote health. It is clear to me that decreasing the use of tobacco is a high priority goal for our community. Each year, 20% of our county's deaths are smoking related. Health care costs for smoking related care are 26 million dollars annually in Marathon County. And despite more than thirty years of warnings from the Surgeon General about the dangers of smoking, our kids continue to start. It is estimated that 21% of Marathon County adolescents currently smoke.

Increasing the excise tax has two effects on this issue. First, by increasing the cost of cigarettes, we make them less affordable. While this certainly will not deter all potential smokers, it is likely to have the highest impact on young smokers with smaller incomes. If this increased tax presents a cost barrier to children in the purchase of tobacco products, it will be a success.

Second, the revenue that will be generated will be used for community education, media campaigns, and evaluation of the programs to determine success. For the past four years, our State has received funds through Project ASSIST, a program of the National Institutes of Health, to focus community education and action around the issue of tobacco use. In Marathon County, our tobacco free coalition has conducted media campaigns, sponsored training for teens to provide peer counseling about tobacco, recognized local restaurants as they became smoke-free, conducted undercover buying operations that identified retailers who sold tobacco products to minors, conducted training for retailers to address this issue, and trained staff to provide smoking cessation programs within the schools. We are working on a proposal that would offer juveniles who have been caught with tobacco products the option of attending a cessation program in lieu of a fine. These types of activities would continue to be supported through the proposed community education program.

As you know, the State of Wisconsin does not designate any non-targeted GPR dollars for the support of local public health departments. I strongly encourage you to support our efforts in tobacco control by approving this tax and the use of these funds for community education. Join us in preventing death and disease--not only in adults, but in our children. Thank you.

*Julie Willems Van Dijk*  
Serving Marathon County by Promoting Health, Protecting the Environment and Preventing Disease  
Julie Willems Van Dijk



# COUNTY OF MARATHON

COURTHOUSE 500 FOREST STREET

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN 54403-5568

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
(715) 847-5213 Fax No. (715) 848-9210  
(800) 236-0153 (Within Marathon Co.)

April 10, 1997

Honorable Members of  
Joint Committee on Finance:

## Comments from Dean Kaatz, Marathon County Land Conservation Department

Marathon County has been impacted by portions of five priority watershed projects. The Land Conservation Committee of the County Board and the Land Conservation Department has provided the primary delivery of services. We have signed cost-share agreements with over 200 landowners representing over \$1,300,000 in cost-sharing. Competent staff is required to sign these agreements and to provide the needed technical assistance for the design and installation of these practices.

We can no longer tolerate a reduction in funding and maintain our credibility with landowners. We need a maintenance of effort to continue existing projects. We feel that GPR dollars should be available for local assistance grants and not just for cost-share agreements as proposed.

We are optimistic that the work of Senator Burke and Representative Johnsrud in revising the Nonpoint Program will be successful.

We also oppose the proposal for the Governor to appoint two additional Land & Water Conservation Board members. That office already appoints 8 of the 11 members. The remaining three are elected by the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association which is made up of County Board members.

Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Leona Tucker. I am here to represent the American Association of Retired Persons,

a year ago AARP added a committee for children and families. With this in mind I should like to address changes in the budget for W2.

That the budget provide at least the minimum wage rather than a grant for community service jobs. By paying the minimum wage the participants may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax credit which would increase their income.

The budget should provide that Medicaid and the Healthy Start program remain in effect for children. Health care services are essential in making W2 work since sick people and parents of sick children are not able to fulfill their work requirements.

The budget must include provisions to permit education and training for W2 participants. Teen parents should be able



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PHONE: (715) 423-1040

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED STATE  
BUDGET—RONALD B. McCABE, APRIL 10, 1997**

My name is Ron McCabe. I am Director of McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids. I recently served on the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries. I thank you for this opportunity to share my ideas concerning Governor Thompson's budget proposal.

I was delighted to find that the Governor's budget included the TEACH Wisconsin initiative. I was disappointed, however, to find that public libraries were not included in this important new program. My disappointment was compounded when I learned that the funding for the Educational Technology Board grants, for which public libraries are eligible, was to be ended to help fund TEACH Wisconsin. Public libraries face the same problems initiating the new information technologies which confront the public schools. The cost of wiring, hardware, software, telecommunications, and staff training has placed an incredible burden on Wisconsin's public libraries. With an additional 5% in funding, the TEACH Wisconsin initiative could be expanded to serve the over 80% of Wisconsin residents who are no longer attending public schools. Senator Calvin Potter's letter to Governor Thompson concerning this topic is attached to my written testimony. Senator Potter's letter represented the unanimous opinion of the Special Committee on Public Libraries that public libraries should be included in TEACH Wisconsin.

I would also like to request that public library system aids be increased. Public library systems are often the leaders in helping individual libraries use the new technologies. As a member of the South Central Library System, McMillan Library now has access to a shared on-line catalog of over 1,850,000 library holdings. Reserves are placed on-line; a delivery system brings requested materials quickly and at an extremely low cost. This tremendous expansion in our library's service to the public was achieved at a cost \$40,000 below a new stand-alone system. We are saving an additional \$25,000 per year in operational costs. The citizens of the Wisconsin Rapids area receive an extremely powerful service at a minimal cost thanks to the cooperative support of the South Central Library System. Funding for the South Central Library System and Wisconsin's other public library systems, however, has been frozen for three years and will be frozen for two more years if the proposed budget is not revised to allow for an increase.

I do not understand the rationale behind the suppression of library funding in recent State budgets. While many other states are taking advantage of the new information technologies to greatly expand their libraries as a critical part of the educational infrastructure, Wisconsin has chosen to freeze the materials budgets of university libraries and to freeze the entire budgets of the State's public library systems. The economic prosperity which Wisconsin enjoys today is, in no small part, the result of Wisconsin's traditional superiority in educating its citizens. Short-term gains in freezing the funding of libraries will be followed by an inevitable loss of long-term educational and economic competitiveness. We have little to gain and much to lose by under-funding our libraries. I urge you to redirect Wisconsin's financial priorities before more damage is done.

Thank you for your time today.



David J. Stute  
Director

Suite 401  
One East Main Street  
P.O. Box 2536  
Madison, WI 53701-2536  
(608) 266-1304  
FAX (608) 266-3830

1947-1997

*Our 50th Anniversary  
of Service to the Legislature*

February 26, 1997

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Thompson:

At its February 18, 1997 meeting, the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries, by a unanimous roll call vote, directed me, as Chairperson of the Committee, to indicate to you their strongest desire that your 1997-99 Budget Bill be amended to include the following items relating to public libraries and, in a very significant way, to your proposed TEACH Wisconsin initiative in the budget:

**1. Information Technology Block Grants**

Provide \$2,500,000 in fiscal year (FY) 1997-98 and \$4,000,000 in FY 1998-99 for information technology block grants to public libraries and systems to purchase networked computer systems, equipment and associated software.

**2. Technical Assistance Grants for Public Library Systems**

Provide \$1,020,000 in FY 1997-98 and \$1,500,000 in FY 1998-99 for public library systems to provide training programs and additional system staff, or to contract for services, to support public library technology programs. This proposal envisions possible cooperation with cooperative educational service agency (CESA) districts in providing the necessary training and education for library staff.

**3. Internet and Video Access**

Provide \$716,400 in FY 1997-98 and \$740,000 in FY 1998-99 to equalize the cost of telecommunications services to ensure that all public libraries and systems are able to access a high speed data link for no more than \$250/month for both direct Internet access and two-way video linkages.

4. BadgerNet Access for Systems

Provide \$340,000 in FY 1997-98 and \$350,000 in FY 1998-99 for public libraries and systems to link libraries, provide Internet access, and other services through BadgerNet, the state's new telecommunications network.

5. Library Wiring Loan Debt Service

Provide \$25,000 in FY 1997-98 and \$500,000 in FY 1998-99 for library wiring loan debt service.

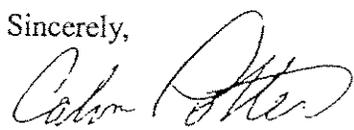
6. Library Wiring Loans

Provide \$5,000,000 annually for *loans* to public libraries and systems to upgrade electrical and network wiring and equipment, recognizing that many older libraries have insufficient electrical capacity or lack network wiring to support the demands of today's computer networks.

The Special Committee feels that this funding is in keeping with, and a necessary adjunct to, your TEACH proposal since public libraries are, ultimately, one of the most vital elements of that proposal. Wisconsin's public library systems have made tremendous progress over the past decade in improving the coordination of library services and ensuring access to library resources for all the residents of the state. Without a major investment in technology, Wisconsin risks not only losing a leadership position among the states, but more importantly, not being able to provide the type and level of services your proposed program, and the people of this state, require. Many Wisconsin public libraries do not have direct access to the Internet. These libraries have only dial-up access or no access. Only a limited number of libraries report direct access to the Internet with most reporting slow speed dial-up connections and only one workstation. Direct access provides the capability to network the Internet throughout library systems, thereby allowing large numbers of students and citizens to use the Internet for information access and lifelong learning.

The Special Committee requests, and most strongly recommends, that you consider amending the Budget to include all of the public library-related items set forth above. They are vital not only to maintaining the continued excellence of one of the most valued services to the people and students of Wisconsin, but to the success and meaningfulness of your TEACH Wisconsin proposal.

Sincerely,



Senator Calvin Potter, Chairperson  
Joint Legislative Council's Special  
Committee on Public Libraries

From:  
Great Lakes Meter Proving, Inc  
10398 Cty Hwy T., Inc.  
P.O. Box 247  
Amherst, Wi. 54406

To:  
State Representatives:  
William Murat  
Kevin Shibilski  
State Capitol  
Madison, Wi. 53702

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture-Trade and Consumer Protection-Weights and Measures Division's Lp-Gas Budget Initiative.

Point # 1  
Agreed

Point #2

I know that the majority of Lp Gas Companies know the importance of having their meters calibrated atleast once a year, not only for inventory control but to show their customers the integrity of their product and service, Therefore most companies will be unaffected by this but those who are will question how this fee was arrived at.

Proposal #3

In the past I and my inspectors and other service companies have had our share of differences with the state inspectors and their test results.

More than once we have returned to a meter that was state rejected and after a retest without removing seals have found the meter well within tolerance.

I have spoken with Al Porter of the Department of Weights and Measures about these discrepancies and have suggested that both state inspectors and/or Lp-gas service company employees should be tested on the procedure for Lp-gas meter calibration.

We are now paying a license fee to the state as a testing facility and are required to have our equipment tested but not the operator of the test equipment. (At Great Lakes Meter-employees are trained for a period of time that is deemed necessary to be knowledgeable of this equipment and the procedures).

With proper training and testing of all Lp-gas meter prover operators we would not have the rejections we have been experiencing, therefore less reason for the \$150 and \$250 fees and fines the are being proposed.

Point #4

I feel that if there is going to be a reinspection fee and if the meter fails, I believe that the Weights and Measures Official who tested and rejected said meter should be required to be on site when the private service company is called back to retest the failed meter.

Disputes over errors, over the phone prove nothing and we all lose the confidence we instill in our customers, the dealers.

Point #5

I see nothing wrong with this proposal only that I hope these reports aren't filed away in some archive where they will never be seen again unless they are used in some litigation or

investigation. In other words give us a better reason for doing all this extra paper work. I have discussed this with Mr. Porter and have been told by him that they will be building a database over the next few years.

Point #6

I think this proposal should be voted on by the Lp gas Companies themselves. Have them decide how they would like to be billed, whether it be per meter/per year or per inspection/per year or by the independent service company.

If the service companies are going to be charged the \$20.00/per calibration fee and also pay the state on a yearly basis they are going to have to charge over and above that which the state charges in order to keep the records required and time and material involved.

Without knowing exactly how the fee is to be paid it will be hard to come up with a fair cost adjustment as far as the cost of meter proves.

2nd Page of the Proposal

Name/address part--OK

Date/Etc--OK

S/N \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes it is impossible to find. Due to nature and road conditions in Wisconsin a small percentage of meters have lost I.D. tags. I suggest that for truck mounted meters, use the Vessel I.D. No. on the Data Plate since chassis are changed every 5 to 12 years that would work better than the Vehicle or Fleet I.D. #.

In Al Porter's letter he has suggested a meeting with the Independent Service Companies and the State Inspectors, I would guarantee my attendance at such.

I regret not being able to attend the WLPGA Convention in Madison April 13, 14 & 15th but I have a prior engagement elsewhere. I also have out of state obligations April 24th through the 28th, but if I can be of any assistance to you after these dates, please feel free to call me or fax me at (715)824-3458 and (715) 824-3440 respectively.

Sincerely,

Dan Gunn-GLMP, Inc.

Testimony At Regional Hearing  
of the Joint Finance Committee  
Thursday, April 10, 1997

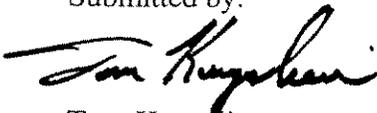
RE: Transfer of School AODA Programs  
from DPI to DHFS Assembly Bill 100  
Senate Bill 77 - Governor's Budget

This written testimony is to voice objection to Assembly Bill 100 Senate Bill 77 which proposes to transfer School AODA Programs from DPI to DHFS. This appears to be another attempt to further dismantle the DPI at the expense of Wisconsin's school children. The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Grants, Families and Schools Together (FAST), After School and Summer School (AS/SS), and the Student Minigrant Program are presently all administered by educators who know children's needs best are slated for transfer to DHFS. It seems to me that these prevention dollars can best be spent right where they are now with educators through the Department of Public Instruction. Not only are these grant programs and the technical assistance associated with them administered by a Student Services Prevention and Wellness Team at the DPI, but the expenditure in the School District of Marshfield of these dollars is also the result of a Student Services team effort of educators experienced with AODA issues. Let me ask the following questions regarding the further attempt to unravel needed services to Wisconsin's school children.

1. Why do we want to remove AODA prevention programs that are working from the State education agency (DPI)?
2. Since these monies have been going to Wisconsin school children by a state agency that has done much valuable work in the AODA area, why do we want to bring this to a halt?
3. What assurances do we have that AODA programs will have the same coordination with other student programs that they have now (ie. school psychologist, social workers, counselors, nurses, school age parents, alcohol and traffic safety, child at risk programs, etc.)
4. What assurances do we have that this proposal would not prove to be administratively burdensome and confusing? Applicants and grantees would be faced with competing or duplicative directions from two state agencies administering similar grant programs.
5. Didn't the Supreme Court firmly establish in Thompson vs. Craney that the State Superintendent is the officer responsible for supervising public instruction in Wisconsin? Didn't the court also rule that any other supervision of public instruction must be subordinate to the State Superintendent?
6. What assurance do we have that Wisconsin's school children will even be recipients of AODA funding in the future if this is turned over to another agency?

Please get politics out of education and allow the Department of Public Instruction to function in the non-partisan way it always has. Leave AODA programs with the DPI like they are now. They know best how to fairly administrate these programs to Wisconsin's school children. We need to begin to ask serious questions about the wisdom of political attempts to control education or dismantle education in this state.

Submitted by:



Tom Kongslien  
Director of Student Services  
School District of Marshfield

Testimony of  
John C. Schnabel, President  
County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin  
Presented at the Public Hearing  
Conducted April 10, 1997 in Wausau, Wisconsin  
by the Joint Committee on Finance

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the Governor's recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs portion of the 1997-99 Biennial Budget. I am John Schnabel, Langlade County Veterans Service Officer and President of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin. I am here representing the 72 County Veterans Service Officers of the State of Wisconsin and, indirectly, the more than 500,000 veterans they serve.

In general, this budget proposal is very good. It is good for veterans and it is good for Wisconsin. Early in his tenure Secretary Boland instituted a policy of long range planning within the Department of Veterans Affairs. This recommended budget is a result of that planning. Rather than try to speak to each individual area, I will limit my comments to several specific examples.

The staffing changes, equipment replacement, physical plant maintenance and repair projects and information technology improvements provided for in the recommended Wisconsin Veterans Home budget will insure the Home remains the finest domiciliary and nursing care facility for veterans in this country. As we all know, the veterans population is aging and that means greater numbers of veterans are requiring an increased level of care. The proposed changes will meet the increased need.

The transfer of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's operations budget from the Veterans Trust Fund to GPR is most appropriate. The museum serves the entire population of Wisconsin not only as a repository for the history of Wisconsin veterans but as an essential tool for education and for scholarly and genealogical research.

Making peacetime veterans eligible for WDVA benefits is long overdue. The well trained military force of citizen soldiers maintained by the United States has long been acknowledged as a major deterrent to war. The number of wars that have been averted by the peacetime veteran can never be known. Individuals have virtually no control over whether they are peacetime or wartime veterans. It is principally controlled by a quirk of nature, their date of birth. The next most important factor is the foreign policy of the United States government and how that policy is executed.

The increase in the CVSO grant allocation is very welcome. Decisions rendered by the Court of Veterans Appeals have changed the way the US Department of Veterans Affairs processes and adjudicates claims. These changes have resulted in increased workloads and expenses for county veterans service offices. The proposed increase will be most useful to every county participating in the program. Several service officers believe it will allow them to either add needed staff or expand hours of present staff members. This can only result in improved service to Wisconsin veterans.

The Personal Loan Program will provide a needed benefit to a broader veteran population and will provide an enhanced revenue stream for the trust fund. For several years our Association has advocated for the development of an expanded loan program to meet these needs. The revenues generated will help offset the cost of grants provided to veterans as well as provide funds to pay for the administration of veterans programs. We have some questions on the mechanics of the Personal Loan Program and the purposes for which it can be used. These issues are presently being addressed with the Department.

The amount of health care being provided veterans by the US Department of Veterans Affairs is not expanding. While it is not possible for the Veterans Trust Fund to fill all the gaps that are occurring, continuation of the Health Care Aid Grant program is most important. Not all veterans are able to obtain insurance to cover health expenses. I am aware of several situations where, had it not been for the Health Care Aid Grant, local providers would have required payment in cash, cash the veteran did not have, before extending care. The Department is conducting a review of the program and has asked that representatives of our Association help determine how to make the Health Care Aid Grant a viable program for the future.

We are concerned about the proposed changes to the Part Time Study Grant program. We are in the process of working with the Department and members of the Senate and Assembly Veterans' Committees to strengthen that area.

The last item I would like to specifically address is the automation of county veterans service offices. The Department and the Association have been working closely to computerize all 72 veterans service offices. This will greatly improve communication between the Department and each county as well as county to county. The capability for a CVSO to determine a veteran's eligibility for state benefits, file applications electronically, verify the status of an application, and obtain copies of discharges from the Department and vital records from other counties will save time, reduce errors and, again, improve service. With these basics in place, capabilities can be expanded compounding the dividends of this investment.

Thank you, again, for allowing me to bring you the views of the CVSO Association. If there are any questions, I will be happy to attempt to answer them.