

Good morning Chairman Gard, Chairman Burke, Representative Albers and members of the Joint Committee on Finance.

My name is Ann Robinson. I am Richland County Clerk of Circuit Court.

I am requesting that the Joint Finance Committee appropriate an additional \$2 million annually for CCAP (Circuit Court Automation Program).

Before CCAP I had no automation of any kind. In October 1992 that all changed and as of October 1993 the Richland County Court system is fully automated. We have all cases entered, financial and jury. Our court system could not function without CCAP.

Richland County has been a pilot county several times for CCAP. This has included jury and most recently the latest update. We have been willing to do this when requested as this helps the entire state. But if CCAP's staff is not sufficient because of lack of funding this would have a great impact on my office.

Richland County is a farming community. If CCAP cannot function without the funds needed this will require the counties to appropriate funds that they don't have to cover the expense. Chaos would be the result. The progress we have seen in the last seven years would be over. Richland County is a depressed area and there is no further funding I could ask for. If a computer breaks down and CCAP could not provide me with a working one, I can't imagine how we would adequately serve the public.

CCAP is a life saver for not only my county but for the entire State of Wisconsin. I cannot praise it enough. And there is much work yet to be done. There are several state and county offices that the Clerk of Court offices need to be networked, such as the District Attorney's office, the sheriff's offices, the continued interaction with Dept of Revenue, the department of transportation, Wisconsin Crime Information bureau. The amount of time

spent on paper and postage alone between all these offices is huge. I ask you to imagine the benefit of sharing information that this network would allow.

I ask you to please allow the continued success of CCAP with adequate funding for the additional staff it requires, new equipment and to continue implementing the remaining counties. The success of CCAP is also the success of the court system and the State.

Thank you.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN, INC.

122 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2500 608-256-0827 FAX 608-256-2853

Statement to Joint Committee on Finance Regarding Corrections Provisions in AB 133/SB 45

April 1999

The executive budget submitted to the state legislature continues an expensive and single-faceted correctional policy in the state of Wisconsin. This budget reflects the soaring costs resulting from a policy which relies almost exclusively on prisons and increased sentences. And indeed, this year the increase in general purpose revenue funds for the Department of Corrections is surpassed only by the increase in school aids.

The budget narrative explains that "Continual increases in the state correctional population absorbs a major portion of available revenue.... The request (was) trimmed to fund only essential, population driven expenditures, including those for new institutions coming on line..." This "essential" budget for the Department of Corrections amounts to state tax funds growing to more than \$700 million by 2001! We view with equal alarm the expenditure of \$150 million of those funds for existing and additional contract beds through 2001 despite the nearing completion of three additional prisons.

Need for Alternative Programs and Sanctions

All of this has to be a clear indication of the need to implement programs and alternative sanctions that can be more cost effective and still serve public safety needs. We point to our neighboring state of Minnesota which has less than half the incarceration rate of Wisconsin. Our correctional system also needs development and use of prevention, diversion, restitution, rehabilitation and reform programs.

As a beginning step in that direction, we support the governor's proposal to provide literacy software for the correctional facilities as well as increased funding for drug and alcohol abuse treatment.

Sending Prisoners Out-of-State

The League of Women Voters also looks with great concern on the growing number of prisoners being sent to facilities in other states. An offender's responsible behavior is promoted by maintaining family contacts and visits. This is next to impossible for most families when those facilities are in Texas, Oklahoma, etc.

Private Correctional Facilities

Our final concern in the funding of correctional policy relates to the use of private correctional facilities in the state of Wisconsin. The primary goal of criminal sanctions is the protection of society, but this serious event involves a citizen and the law. It is the sole responsibility of the state to enforce and provide criminal sanctions. How would the state protect the rights of individual prisoners? How will the state maintain appropriate personnel requirements and degrees of professionalism? We seriously question the use of private correctional facilities in the state of Wisconsin.

Juvenile Justice

We urge reconsideration of two parts of the Governor's proposed budget pertaining to Juvenile Justice where there are marked funding inadequacies.

The League depends on public support for its work.
Your contributions, unless given to the Education Fund, are not tax deductible for charitable purposes.

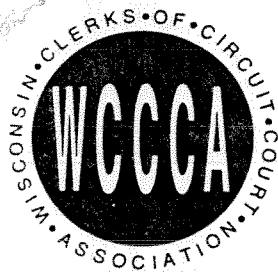
The first regards state funds to counties for programs dealing with juvenile delinquency, of which the most important is Youth Aids. Youth Aids cover a portion of county expenses on services and facilities for juvenile detentions and dispositions. The Governor's budget proposes increased funding for Youth Aids of 2 million for FY00 and 4 million for FY01. However, these increases are primarily to cover projected increases in costs to counties of juveniles committed to state correctional facilities. The projected increases include both a rise in daily rates per juvenile, and an increase in the number of juveniles committed to the state institutions. The budgeted increase in Youth Aids leaves little, if any, additional money for alternate care of juvenile offenders within the counties where they and their families reside. The Wisconsin statutes provide an exemplary array of alternate disposition possibilities for county juvenile courts to choose from depending on the nature of the offense and the needs of the juvenile and the community. These include, for example, monitoring at home, placement in foster homes, or in non-secure and secure group homes, and a range of treatments for drugs, mental health, etc. However, unless these local alternate dispositions are funded, for practical purposes they are not an option for the juvenile courts. Few counties can afford to finance the needed services and facilities on their own. Yet few people would argue that diversion and local placements in facilities which are less criminalizing than a state correctional facility is preferable for most younger juveniles, first time offenders, and minor offenses. Rehabilitation is more likely to be successful, repeat offenses upon release less frequent.

For the past half decade, the proportion of county costs for juvenile delinquency covered by Youth Aids has fallen steadily from 65% to 45%, and some communities with growing caseloads, like Milwaukee County, have been disproportionately disadvantaged by the current state distribution formula. We also note that the proposed budget cuts the funds for community-based treatment services for serious juvenile offenders from \$5,000 to \$3,000 per juvenile. To skimp on funds for Youth Aids and other community-based services is shortsighted, and lack of rehabilitation of today's juvenile offenders will lead to greater expenses for prisons in the future.

On the other hand, the League of Women Voters applauds the proposal to increase funds for Aftercare services, which provide assistance for juveniles in the transition from state correctional facilities back into their local communities. We also note with approval that a number of effective programs which could be viewed as preventive measures for at-risk children have received funding in the Governor's proposed budget, though most of the money comes from the so-called "welfare dividend."

The second inadequacy in the proposed juvenile justice budget that the League of Women Voters urges you to reconsider concerns rehabilitation within the state juvenile correctional facilities themselves. A proposed cut of 20 positions in the institutions, for a saving of over \$1,268,000 eliminates primarily positions associated with rehabilitation, such as youth counselors, teachers, social workers, recreation leaders, psychologists, and program assistants. This reduction is in spite of a projected increase in the juvenile population of the correctional institutions from 939 in 1998-1999 to 1,044 in 2000-2001.

The recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Study Committee, upon which the Juvenile Code of 1996 is based, called for "an approach which balances rehabilitation, personal accountability, and public protection." The League of Women Voters supports these goals, but remarks that the budget focuses on the protection of the public to the neglect of the rehabilitation of the juvenile. While recognizing the importance of protection, the League of Women Voters urges the Wisconsin legislature not to forget rehabilitation, the best way to reduce future criminal behavior.



Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association

Serving Wisconsin Courts

President

GAIL GENTZ
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April 15, 1999

Vice President

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FAX: 608-266-9286

Dear Member of Joint Committee on Finance:

**Re: CCAP Budget Request
Public Hearing On State Budget Bill (AB 133) - April 15, 1999**

Secretary

NANCY ROBILLARD
421 Nebraska St., Courthouse
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Tele: 920-746-2205
FAX: 920-746-2381

On behalf of the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA), I am testifying in support of the Supreme Court's position on full funding for the CCAP budget request.

Treasurer

BERNADETTE FLATOFF
1516 Church St., Courthouse
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Tele: 715-346-1370
FAX: 715-346-1236

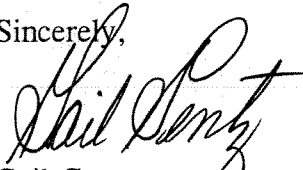
The Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) is essential in the continuation of providing court services in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Among the necessary initiatives that will need on-going development and support are the interfaces with agencies who rely on court records and data. This is just one example where adequate funding of CCAP will be required.

Executive Committee

Judith A. Coleman, Chair
John Barrett, Dist. 1
Taraesa Wheary, Dist. 2
Kristine Deiss, Dist. 3
Diane Fremgen, Dist. 4
Eldred Mielke, Dist. 5
Mary Ellen Cross, Dist. 6
Carolyn K. Olson, Dist. 7
Ruth H. Janssen, Dist. 8
Susan Krueger, Dist. 9
Clara Minor, Dist. 10

In summary, the WCCCA's position of support is contained in the attached resolution approved at the Association's annual membership meeting. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gail Gentz
President, WCCCA

Legislative Committee

Cynthia S. Ernst, Chair
John Barrett, Dist. 1
Sheila Reiff, Dist. 2
Barbara Grube, Dist. 4
Judith Coleman, Dist. 5
Richard Thieme, Dist. 6
Pamela Radtke, Dist. 7
David Bruske, Dist. 8
Donna Seidel, Dist. 9
Diana Miller, Dist. 10

**THE WISCONSIN CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURT
RESOLUTION
Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP)**

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) provides a cost-effective approach for automating Wisconsin's courts; and

WHEREAS, the continued success of CCAP is critical to the basic operations of Wisconsin's circuit courts and is in the best interest of Wisconsin citizens and counties; and

WHEREAS, CCAP was originally envisioned to provide case management systems to small and mid-size counties in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, CCAP has evolved from its case management origins to provide financial and jury management systems and has expanded to also serve most of Wisconsin's large counties, including Milwaukee, Dane, Waukesha, Racine, Brown, Kenosha and Rock; and

WHEREAS, CCAP's success has led to local, statewide and national acclaim, including a prestigious Smithsonian Institution award; and

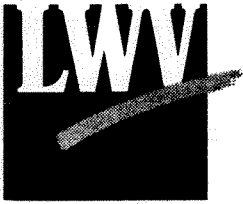
WHEREAS, limited resources and rapid growth have reduced CCAP's ability to support the users and equipment currently in place, to expand implementations to the remaining interested counties, to maintain and modify the system, and to provide additional functionality to the circuit courts of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, CCAP has outgrown its funding and staffing levels to such an extent that equipment replacement routinely occurs beyond the standard four-year replacement cycle and the current ratio of support staff to user (1 to 76) is less than half the support level recommended by the Department of Administration (1 to 30); and

WHEREAS, the budget submitted by the Supreme Court for the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget should address the aforementioned concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association endorses and supports the CCAP budget initiative as submitted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association and its members are encouraged to contact the Governor, Secretary of the Department of Administration, and legislators in support of the CCAP budget initiative; and to encourage county board members, county executives and county administrators to do the same.



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WISCONSIN, INC.**

122 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2500 608-256-0827 FAX 608-256-2853

**Statement to the Joint Committee on Finance
Regarding Increased Funding for Early Prevention**

April 15, 1999

The League of women Voters of Wisconsin recommends the Joint Committee on Finance increase funding in the 1999-2000 state budget for two initiatives supporting families at the most critical time in their lives: when their children are newborns.

The **first** is to expand funding for the PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (POCAN) to \$2.1 million in general purpose revenue per year. Under the beginning phase of the program, grants were awarded to nine counties and one Indian tribe to support those at risk of abuse or neglect.

Unfortunately, an additional 22 counties were denied grants because of lack of funds. The additional \$2.1 million per year will extend the program to an additional 20 counties and three Indian tribes.

The **second** is to include new money equal to 1% of the Department of Corrections biennial budget to expand the availability of family support and home visitation services. The new money will build on the services already in place and establish new programs where necessary.

The 1% FOR PREVENTION initiative is in response to the TRUTH IN SENTENCING legislation which directs the Department of Health and Family Services to submit a budget request for funding of child abuse prevention efforts in an amount equal to or greater than 1% of the Department of Corrections biennial budget request.

Wisconsin is the **first state in the nation to link crime and child abuse**. The next step is to follow through on this historic commitment by including the 1% for prevention in new money in the 1999-2000 state budget.

The League's commitment to prevention is based on solid research.

1. Family-focused prevention services have been effective in reducing the violent cycle of abuse and neglect. For every dollar spent on outcome driven child abuse prevention strategy at least twice as much is saved on child welfare, special education, mental health and juvenile justice services.
2. Abused or neglected children are 59% more likely than other children to be arrested as a juvenile, 27% more likely to go to jail as an adult and 29% more likely to commit a violent crime.

The League depends on public support for its work.
Your contributions, unless given to the Education Fund, are not tax deductible for charitable purposes.

3. Regrettably, in Wisconsin over 46,000 cases of child abuse are reported each year. In Milwaukee County alone, child abuse and neglect rose from 5,193 cases in 1986 to 9,086 cases in 1995.
4. Home visit programs are effective in curbing youth aggression; the programs use paraprofessionals or volunteers who regularly visit the homes of new parents and provide support and information that helps new parents and their babies establish healthy childbearing patterns from the start, are effective in curbing youth aggression.

The League of Women Voters has a long history in support of legislation which provides families with the funds and community assistance needed to raise children who will become responsible adults. We urge your support of these funding proposals not only because preventative programs save the state money long-term, but because young lives are saved from the cycle of violence which results from abuse and neglect encountered during their first years. Wisconsin as a state must take responsibility for providing a safe environment for its youngest citizens.

One Percent Now !!



Right From the Start
a Wisconsin Coalition

Testimony for the Joint Committee on Finance Public Hearing
April 15, 1999

My name is Ron Biendseil. I am here today as co-chair of the Right From the Start Coalition to urge the Joint Committee on Finance to amend the state budget to include additional funding equal to 1% of the Department of Corrections budget to for a statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Initiative. Such an amendment would provide funding for the preventive component of the Truth in Sentencing Act (Act 283) passed last year by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

The Truth in Sentencing Act is a comprehensive effort to control and reduce crime in Wisconsin. The current budget contains significant new funding to support Act 283. Unfortunately, it does not include the fiscal component required to make Section 29 of the Act a reality. Section 29 reads as follows:

“As part of its biennial budget request... (the Department of Health and Family Services shall) submit a request for funding for child abuse prevention efforts in an amount equal to or greater than 1% of the total proposed budget of the department of corrections for the same biennium...”

The current budget proposal does not comply with this directive.

It is crucial that the Joint Committee on Finance address this oversight. There is clear and compelling evidence that children who experience early childhood abuse and neglect are at great risk of become criminals as adults. There is also strong evidence that once serious abuse and neglect occurs, all the court interventions and counselors and therapists and community programs can never completely undo the damage. If we want to avoid the tragic consequences of child abuse and neglect, we must prevent it from happening in the first place!

This proposal is particularly timely because in the past few years we have made great strides in understanding how to prevent child abuse and neglect. We know that family visitation programs initiated soon after the birth of a baby on a voluntary basis increase parenting skills and reduce abuse and neglect. We know that when new parents have easy access to family resource centers, they use those centers to become better parents. We know that short-term respite programs provide an alternative to stressed out parents who are at risk of becoming abusive. And we know that when communities work together to develop these programs, they are well received by parents.

Many legislators from both parties support Act 283 in its entirety. We urge the Join Committee on Finance to amend the proposed budget to fund the component of the Act that designates an amount at least equal to 1% of the DOC budget for the prevention of crime.

I have attached to this statement language which our coalition has developed for your consideration. I am also including a list of those statewide organizations that are co-sponsors of this initiative.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this most important issue.

Ronald E. Biendseil, co-chair
Right From the Start Coalition
1202 Northport Dr., Room 444
Madison WI 53704
Phone: (608) 242-6422

ONE PERCENT -- NOW!!

(A COALITION OF WISCONSIN ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT)

Proposed Motion to Joint Finance Committee

Note: The purpose of this amendment is to provide the fiscal resources required to implement the intent of Section 29 of 1997 Wisconsin Act 283 (Truth in Sentencing)

1. A sum sufficient equal to 1% of the total amounts appropriated and estimated to be expended from all sources for the Department of Corrections for each fiscal year as shown in the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) will be used for grants to a statewide Initiative for the Primary Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to be administered by the Department of Health and Family Services.
2. These funds shall be distributed to community planning/coordinating bodies as designated by counties or tribes and representing the ethnic, socio-economic, and geographic composition of the community according to a formula based on the number of annual births. Priority shall be given to building on existing primary prevention services. The goal shall be to offer all parents of newborn children family resource and home visitation services.
3. Each county or tribe receiving these funds shall provide an annual report to the Department of Health and Family Services detailing the services provided, the number of families using these services, and the status of key child development indicators.
4. The Department of Health and Family Services shall submit an annual report on the status of the Initiative for the Primary Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to the Governor, Attorney General, and Legislature.

1% NOW!! SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

The Child Abuse Prevention Fund,
Jennifer Hammel, Prevention Initiative Manager
PO Box 1997, M.S. 3085
Milwaukee WI 53201
414/266-6300

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin
Sue Weimerskirch, State Director of Prevention
2420 Stewart Sq.
Wausau, WI 54401

Community Ventures
Children's Health System
Christine Holmes, Director
P.O. Box 1997 M.S. 958
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414/266-5434

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin
Rev. Sue Moline Larson, Director
322 E. Washington Ave
Madison WI 53703
608/255-7399

National Association of Social Workers,
Wisconsin Chapter
Marc Herstand, Executive Director
14 W. Mifflin
Madison WI 53503
608/257-6334

Parents Plus of Wisconsin
Sue Werely, State Project Director
PO Box 452
Menasha, WI 54952
920/729-1787

Wisconsin Association of Family and
Children's Agencies
John Grace, Executive Director
131 W. Wilson
Madison WI 53703
608/257-5939

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin
Carol Kiemel, Legislative Committee
2769 Marshall Parkway,
Madison, WI 53713

Wisconsin Cares
Jack Westman, Chair
1234 Dartmouth Rd.
Madison WI 53705
608/238-0858

Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund
Nadine Schwab, Executive Director
110 E. Main St.
Madison WI 53703
608/266-3737

Wisconsin Committee to Prevent Child Abuse
Steve Ritt, President, Board of Directors
214 N. Hamilton St.
Madison, WI 53703
608/256-3374

Wisconsin Head Start
Ginny Roman
122 East Olin Ave, Suite 110
Madison WI 53713
608/265-9422

Wisconsin Interfaith IMPACT (Wisconsin
Council of Churches)
Bonnee Lauridsen Voss, Director
750 Windsor Street (#301)
Sun Prairie WI 53590

Wisconsin Prevention Network
Jean Daute, Chair
%Rock Co. Human Services
P.O. Box 1649
Janesville, WI 575-5374
(608) 757-5374

Wisconsin Right From the Start Coalition
Amy Bakken, Co-Chair
Ron Biendseil, Co-Chair
711 W. Capitol Dr.
Milwaukee WI 53206
414/264-2660



Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Testimony on the State Budget, Senate Bill 45/Assembly Bill 133
Joint Finance Committee**

April 15, 1999

Good morning Chairman Burke and Chairman Gard and other members of the committee. My name is Cheri Dubiel, and I am the Policy Development Specialist at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA). WCASA is a statewide network of individuals, agencies and organizations, including 34 community-based sexual assault service providers, working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin.

I am here to ask you to reject the Governor's proposal to authorize Sexual Assault Victim Services (or SAVS) funding and federal Victims of Crimes Act (or VOCA) funds to reimburse counties for the cost of their victim/witness services. I am also here to ask you to reject the Governor's appropriation of \$200,000 from federal VOCA funds to fund three new victim services positions in the Department of Corrections.

While we at WCASA are encouraged by the Governor's intention of expanding victim witness programs at the county level, his proposals would take much needed funding from local, non-profit programs which provide direct services to victims and give it to counties. We believe the money for these county-run services should be found elsewhere.

Prior to the establishment of the SAVS fund, local non-profit sexual assault service providers relied to a much greater extent on VOCA funds. VOCA funds are essential to the operations of sexual assault services, but are extremely limited in scope, funding only direct services. There was no specific state funding available to cover administrative and operational costs. Sexual assault service providers were struggling to stay alive.

Then in 1992 and 1993, a large group consisting of victims, community members, and legislators, came together to establish a fund which would allow providers to provide comprehensive services to victims/survivors of sexual assaults. Out of that hard work came the Sexual Assault Victim Services fund. SAVS was established for the sole purpose of providing additional funding to local, non-profit sexual assault service providers and is very necessary to insure funding for victims/survivors at the local level. If the SAVS fund is opened up to fund county victim/witness programs, the state legislature will be in the role of pitting victims against victims and undermining the original intent of the fund. The money can not be spent in both places, and the result would be that local sexual assault victim services would be diminished. Without strong local sexual assault victim services, victims won't have the support to report

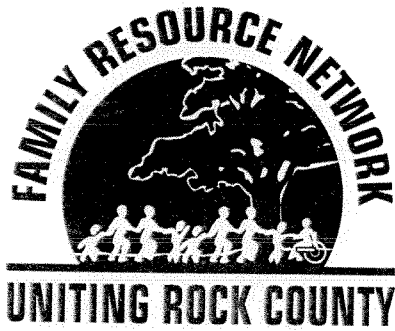


Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

their assault and will never access the victim witness programs within the counties and criminal justice system that are being established.

Of the 34 sexual assault service providers represented by WCASA, which provide services in 52 counties, 16 rely on SAVS and VOCA funding for 100% of their funding. 25 of the 34 rely on SAVS and VOCA funding for at least 50% of their funding.

SAVS and VOCA funding are the lifeblood of local sexual assault services. Unfortunately, while this legislation has good intentions, it would actually hurt victims of sexual assault. Please reject the governor's proposal to authorize SAVS and VOCA funding to reimburse counties for the cost of their victim/witness services. Please also reject the appropriation of \$200,000 from federal VOCA funds to fund three new victim services positions in the Department of Corrections.



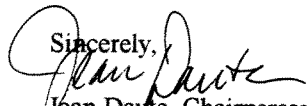
April 15, 1999

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members,

As the Chairperson of Family Resource Network, I have been encouraged to share the concerns of our members. We are greatly alarmed by the significant amount of funding that our state government is putting into the corrections budget. It is true that we need to keep dangerous criminals off the streets of Wisconsin. However, we continue to put huge increases in the bi-annual budget with very little being put on the other end of the continuum in the form of primary prevention. We know from various sources of research, that primary prevention is cheaper per person and has a longer, positive sustained impact than do prisons and institutions. We also know that between 80-95% of the people in prisons were victims of some form of abuse as a child. It is not hard to miss the connection between these two outcomes.

Therefore, we strongly support the 1% for Prevention provision in the Truth in Sentencing Bill that now must become a new, separate piece of legislation. This new legislation will require new dollars from the corrections budget to expand on what exists and develop new additional programming for communities not yet involved. Funding primary prevention programs can allow a greater amount of local control for more communities throughout the state.

Further, primary prevention funding with new dollars to programs that offer universal access to all families would be an extremely effective use of taxpayer dollars. Programs that are limited to "at risk" families do not reach enough people and it is often implemented after the problems occurred. We need to take advantage of this important window of opportunity with babies and new parents. The recent brain research has indicated that a child's earliest development is an extremely crucial time. It is then that we can offer support and help to new parents to assure a more positive outcome for all parents and their children. Healthy, supported and nurtured children now means healthier, less disturbed, resource draining adults later. Which is more cost effective? We believe all of you know the answer to this question. Please support 1% for Prevention!

Sincerely,

Jean Daute, Chairperson

608/757-5285 * fax 608/757-5374

P O Box 1649 * Janesville, WI 53547