



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**DAVID WARD**

37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

The attached is provided  
for your information.  
Please let me know if I can be  
of further assistance.

I have attached the testimony from two  
of my constituents, Sherry Quamme  
and Diane Veith, as well as  
that of the Community Bankers of  
Wisconsin. None of them were able  
to testify at the public hearing in  
Madison; however, they asked me to  
be sure their testimony was still  
included in the record. Thanks, Dave

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P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-3790

April 15, 1999  
Judiciary Hearing  
Madison WI

Sherry Quamme  
Associate Administrator  
Patient Care Services  
Columbus Community Hospital, Inc.  
1515 Park Ave.  
Columbus WI 53925  
(920) 623-2200

Wisconsin AHEC System  
Chair, Board of Directors

**RE: Speaking in Favor of \$700,000 Increase In Funding For The Wisconsin AHEC System**

**What is AHEC? What does AHEC do?**

The Wisconsin Area Health Education System, or AHEC, aims to improve the distribution, supply, quality, utilization and efficiency of health personnel in rural and underserved communities in Wisconsin.

The WI AHEC is administered through the UW Medical School. The work of AHEC is done through four regional, community-based organizations.

Local AHEC's act to join together the resources of the UW Medical School with communities that have a health related need.

**How has AHEC Impacted Columbus and Columbus Community Hospital?**

- Placement of medical students and selected family practice residents at our rural hospital. Dr. Mary Davis was a family practice resident at our hospital and is now a family practice physician living and working in our community. Her presence has been instrumental in recruiting other physicians. Medical students continue to have rotations to our rural site.
- Senior nursing students have a semester of clinical nursing experience at our rural hospital. 7 of these students have chosen to accept employment at our hospital because of these rotations. They would not have considered us without this AHEC supported program.
- Physical Therapy students from UW Madison, UW LaCrosse and Carroll College utilize our hospital through AHEC supported clinical rotations. Physical Therapy Assistant students from Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville receive training at our hospital and we were successful in employing a student in a position that was open for two years prior the start of this clinical rotation.
- Occupational Therapy students also have clinicals at our hospital.

- These are professionals in growing shortage that are recruited because of the clinicals they have at our rural site. Without the clinicals, they wouldn't give us a second thought.
- High School Students take Certified Nursing Assistant courses supported by AHEC programs in partnership with the hospital and local nursing home. The students then have exposure to a health occupation plus a way to earn income to help support their college education.

#### **Other AHEC Benefits To My Community and Area:**

- Facilitated continuing education opportunities
- Functioned as a convener and facilitator to address health care access or workforce needs. Example: Nurse Practitioner student clinical that resulted in employment for two Nurse Practitioners in separate physician clinics.
- Provided training and technical assistance for accessing computer-based health information and library resources. Located a PC workstation in a physician clinic for use by nurse practitioner students, medical students. Available for nursing and physical therapy students.
- Through timely access to health information, have been able to improve patient care.
- Provided technical assistance for community health improvement projects.

#### **What Does Columbus Community Hospital and Wisconsin Need AHEC for in the Future? How will Wisconsin be Impacted If There Is A Loss of Funding?**

- Expansion of medical and health professional education in rural and underserved communities like Columbus. We are facing a severe health professions shortage. Students who have clinical experiences at rural and underserved sites give consideration to practicing at those sites. There is a network of systems across Wisconsin now supported by faculty from the University of Wisconsin, our technical colleges, many of our private colleges and a host of community health care providers. AHEC has nurtured and created this. It will be lost if the funding is lost.
- Coordination of community-based activities across regions
- Decreased communication among health professional training programs and community providers would be an outcome of decreased funding. These are the volunteer preceptors of the students. AHEC provides distance learning, technology communication access and continuing education along with health care services support. (Farm health assessments at Feed Mills, Migrant worker health services, dental care access in Wautoma for underserved, South Madison Health Clinic services and others.) Programs would close, cease to exist.
- Without some increase in funding, regional AHEC centers will have to cut programs and services and, maybe even close.

#### **Relevant Facts & Figures To Consider:**

- Wisconsin AHEC System is requesting total state funding of \$1.5 million per year to maintain current programs and services.
- Current AHEC System budget is \$1.56 million per year

\$763,000 in federal money

\$800,000 in state funds

- Federal money is ending September 30, 1999

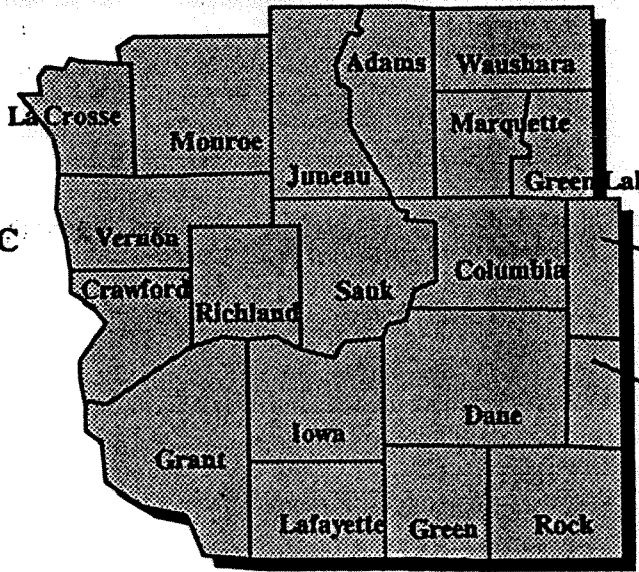
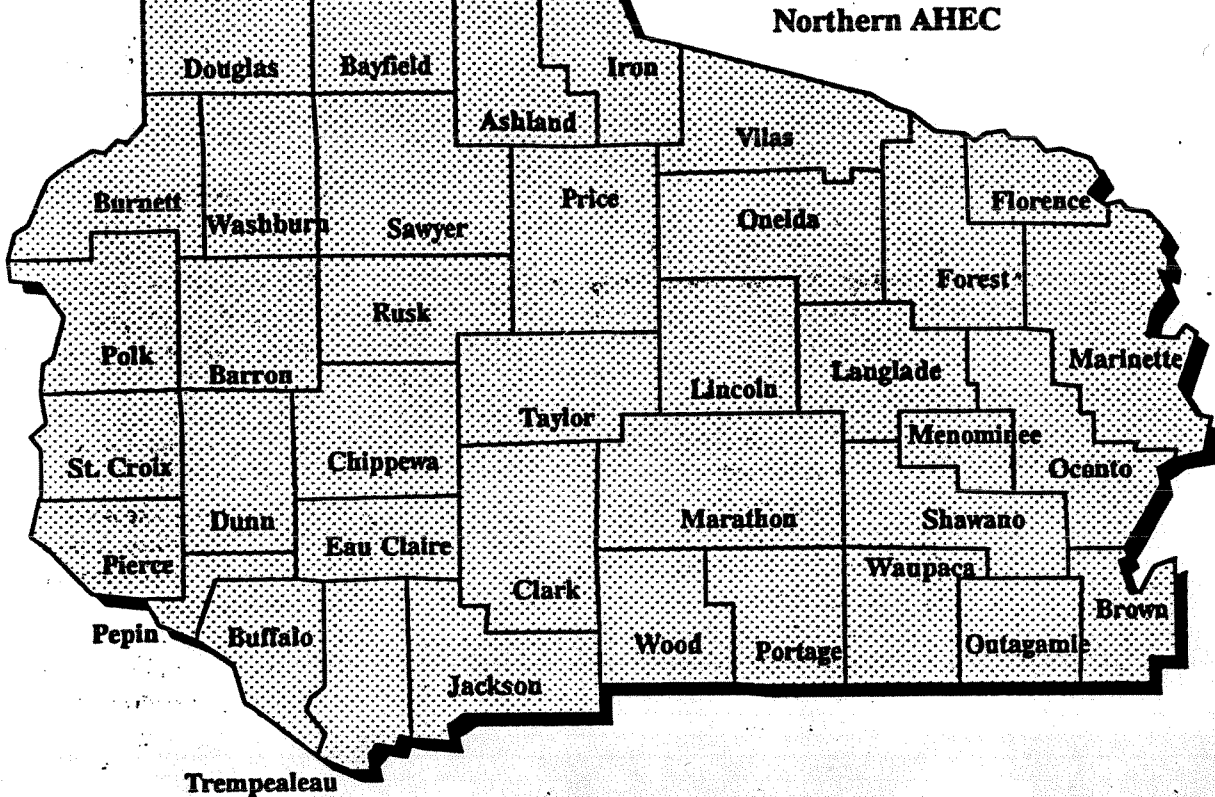
- Request:

Maintain \$800,000 per year appropriation in Governor's budget

Increase of \$700,000 per year in state funds, please

Please understand the need to support the Wisconsin AHEC System through the increase of \$700,000 per year to continue to statewide and regional, community based AHEC programs and projects that result in better health care services to rural and underserved populations of our state.

Thank you to all committee members for your attention to the health related needs of rural and underserved areas of Wisconsin.



**Southwestern AHEC**

**Southeastern AHEC**

**STATEWIDE WISCONSIN  
AHEC AREAS**



# David Ward

Wisconsin State Assembly

Member: Joint Committee on Finance

April 16, 1999

Joint Finance Committee Members  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to share with you the budget concerns of one of my constituents from Lake Mills. You may have been contacted by her already regarding UW Hospitals and Clinics and the UW Medical School.

My constituent, Ms. Diane Veith, would like to express her support for adequate funding for the UW Medical School. Ms. Veith has had extensive contact with the doctors at the Medical School and the UW Hospital while her husband, Dale, was treated in the Hematology Clinic for 31 years until his death last year. Dale went through many different tests, checkups, drugs, treatments, and hospital stays. Diane tells me that they felt they received the best possible care during these 31 years of treatment. Doctors never stopped searching for answers to Dale's condition through their own research and by following the research of other doctors around the nation. Because we have these excellent medical facilities here in Wisconsin, Dale was able to receive his treatment close to home where Diane, along with many other family members and friends, were able to visit and show their support for his recovery.

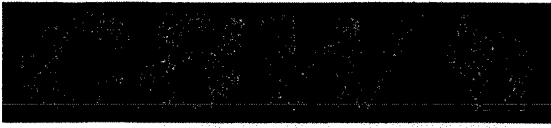
Diane would like to see continued funding for the UW Medical School and the UW Hospitals and Clinics because she would like to ensure that the quality care they received is available for everyone well into the future.

The current Dept. of Health and Family Services budget proposal contains a cut in funding for graduate medical education which will affect both the hospital and the medical school. Ms. Veith is obviously very opposed to this cut remaining in the budget bill and would actually appreciate a special appropriation being made to the UW Medical School.

I have told Ms. Veith how extremely tight the 1999-2001 budget is, making it very difficult to come up with additional money. However, I assured her I would share her comments with you for your consideration on this important issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative David Ward  
37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



7818 Big Sky Drive, Suite 104  
Madison, WI 53719  
(608) 833-4229  
Fax (608) 833-8114

Community Bankers of Wisconsin

**Public Hearing of the  
Joint Committee on Finance**

**SB 45/AB 133 – State Budget – Combined Reporting  
Thursday, April 15, 1999**

**Testimony of Daryll Lund, President & CEO  
Community Bankers of Wisconsin**

Chairpersons Burke and Gard and members of the committee, my name is Daryll Lund, President & CEO of the Community Bankers of Wisconsin (CBW). CBW is a statewide trade association representing the interests of 220 community based financial institutions.

The average size of our bank members is \$76 million in assets. These banks are typically located on Main Street in the heart of the community and are vital to the growth and prosperity of those Wisconsin communities. Community banks reinvest local deposits back into the community in the form of loans. Many of these loans help create jobs in small businesses, farming, manufacturing and housing. Wisconsin community banks have reinvested, on average, 95% of their loan portfolio in their own communities and almost 100% of their total loan portfolio here in Wisconsin.

I appear before you today to testify in opposition to the combined reporting proposal contained within the state budget.

Some of the key points I would like to make are as follows:

- 1. If enacted combined reporting will negatively impact the competitiveness of Wisconsin community banks.**

Wisconsin community banks face an increasingly competitive marketplace. Community banks today compete against larger multi-state banks, brokerage firms, mutual fund companies, finance companies, credit unions and Internet banks. Some of these competitors enjoy regulatory and income tax advantages over

community banks. State boundaries are also being dissolved. Enacting combined reporting in Wisconsin will enable out of state financial institutions to have a competitive advantage over Wisconsin community banks when doing business in our state.

We will be sharing with you information which supports this point.

**2. If enacted combined reporting will likely accelerate the mergers within the community banking industry.**

Wisconsin currently has approximately 360 banks compared to 644 banks in 1980. Several factors have led to this decline including increased competition, economies of scale and increased pressure to achieve earnings performance objectives. One of the major impacts of combined reporting will be a reduction in the earnings performance of many community banks. If combined reporting is enacted the overall stock value of the bank is diminished because stock is sold today as a multiple of earnings. The reduction in earnings may result in pressure from the shareholders to sell the bank.

We will be sharing with you information which supports this point.

**3. If enacted combined reporting will make Wisconsin a less attractive state to have a bank headquarters.**

I mentioned earlier in my testimony that in today's financial services marketplace state boundaries are being dissolved. Interstate banking and branching has contributed to this fact. Multi-state financial institutions consider basing their headquarters in the state that provides the most beneficial tax and regulatory environment. Community banks that are on the state border will also have to make a decision on whether Wisconsin is the best state to be headquartered. Overall community banks are more restricted in their ability to move interstate since they manage almost no out-of-state activities. Wisconsin loses jobs and tax revenues if even one bank decides to move their headquarters out of state.

For these reasons the Community Bankers of Wisconsin encourages your opposition to the combined reporting proposal. Thank you.



## Bank Industry's Current Tax Burden Ranking With Our Neighbors Tax Expense from 1997 FDIC Call Reports, by State

All Banks	Iowa	Wisconsin	Illinois	Michigan	Minnesota
Total Commercial Banks	453	361	784	163	520
Total Employees (full-time equivalents)	15,858	23,993	72,960	42,907	41,300
Net income for commercial banks from 1997, millions	581	840	2,685	1,645	1,926
Income Taxes	258	381	1,228	852	1,083
Net income before taxes	839	1,221	3,913	2,497	3,009
Tax burden as percent of Net income before taxes	30.75%	31.20%	31.38%	34.12%	35.99%
Tax burden if \$44 million* is added, net of federal savings		33.58%	—————▶		

Banks Under \$100 million	Illinois	Iowa	Wisconsin	Minnesota	Michigan
Commercial Banks under \$100 million	502	376	244	426	89
Employees (full-time equivalents)	8,925	5,891	4,845	7,016	2,611
Net income for commercial banks from 1997, millions	234	178	131	188	44
Income Taxes	85	70	53	86	22
Net income before taxes	319	248	184	274	66
Tax burden as percent of Net income before taxes	26.65%	28.23%	28.80%	31.39%	33.33%

How much of the \$44 million would come out of banks under \$100 million?  
Where would this move our ranking for smaller banks?

Banks \$100 million to \$1 billion	Illinois	Iowa	Wisconsin	Michigan	Minnesota
Commercial Banks \$100 million to \$1 billion	261	72	110	65	89
Employees (full-time equivalents)	23,344	5,435	9,769	6,754	7,171
Net income for commercial banks from 1997, millions	784	184	330	169	244
Income Taxes	323	76	150	81	125
Net income before taxes	1,107	260	480	250	369
Tax burden as percent of Net income before taxes	29.18%	29.23%	31.25%	32.40%	33.88%

In this category, Wisconsin is already a couple percentage points above Illinois and Iowa.  
Where would our ranking move in this category?

Banks \$1 billion and over	Wisconsin	Illinois	Iowa	Michigan	Minnesota
Commercial Banks \$1 billion and over	7	21	5	9	5
Employees (full-time equivalents)	9,379	40,691	4,532	33,542	27,113
Net income for commercial banks from 1997, millions	379	1,667	219	1,432	1,494
Income Taxes	178	821	111	749	872
Net income before taxes	557	2,488	330	2,181	2,366
Tax burden as percent of Net income before taxes	31.96%	33.00%	33.64%	34.34%	36.86%

\* Per Department of Revenue estimates

## Wisconsin Bank Tax Laws Compared to Neighbors

Neighboring States	Do they tax interest from federal obligations?	What tax rate do they apply to banks?	For multi-state banks, how do they apportion income?
Iowa	Yes	5% (less than half the top rate on regular corporations, 12%)	single-factor on receipts
Illinois	No	7.18% combined rate (net income <b>excludes</b> US interest)	single-factor on receipts
Michigan	No	2.3%	single-factor on receipts
Minnesota	Yes	9.8%	70-15-15, heavily-weighted on receipts
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Yes, but current law allows many banks to offset this by moving investments to out-of-state related corporations. The proposed changes would encourage multi-state banks to source more of their operations outside Wisconsin.	<b>7.9% on all income including US interest</b>	A planned Technical Amendment to the Budget Bill would codify a single-factor apportionment for financial institutions. Multi-state banks will still be able to apportion income outside Wisconsin, but community banks would be taxed at Wisconsin's high rates on 100% of their income.

The reasons given for the corporate tax reform provisions are to **restore competitive balance with our neighboring states** and to **join the majority of states** and the emerging pattern of corporate taxation in the industrial midwest.

**Wisconsin is in the minority** of states that tax U.S. interest, even though they recently won a case on the right to do so. Other than Minnesota, all of our neighbors have more favorable state tax rates on banks. This change (combined reporting with no Treasury exclusion or rate reduction) would put **Wisconsin banks at a competitive disadvantage** with our neighbors. Please don't forget Wisconsin banks while you are restoring the competitive balance with our neighboring states.

## Impact to Value of Business

### Actual Bank Example

	Gross Receipts	Percentage	Taxable Income	Tax
In Wisconsin	\$ 6,856,938	84.11%	\$ 492,672	\$ 39,906
Outside Wisconsin	1,295,436	15.89%	1,264,229	-
	<u>\$ 8,152,374</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$ 1,756,901</u>	<u>\$ 39,906</u>

Wisconsin tax rate	7.9%
Proposed tax	\$ 138,795
Current tax	<u>39,906</u>
Tax increase from combined reporting	<u>\$ 98,889</u>
Stock valuation PE ratio	20
Decrease in value of Bank to current shareholders	\$ 1,977,780

April 15, 1999

Dear Governors Committee,

Hi. I'm Madeline Oleksy and I'm in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at O'Keeffe Middle School here in Madison.

I think it's great that Governor Thompson wants to grant this money to child care. I'm very into these issues and I think that it's good for children to have great child care teachers to help improve their education.

I was in child care when I was a kid and it had great teachers. I think it's hard to be a child care teacher and take care of lots of kids because when they are little they are hard to take care of. Like they don't always want to share and that's an important thing to learn but it can't be learned without a good teacher showing them. You can't just say "no! no! no!" to little kids. You have to show them what's right and wrong.

When children are very young, that's when they learn to respect each other and themselves and we should take advantage of this opportunity. They should also learn how to solve their problems with words and not by hitting or biting. This is really important because in real life, like in middle school, you have to be able to talk things out and not get into fights. Middle schools should not be dangerous places and by having good child care teachers teach little kids this stuff, everyone will be safer all their lives.

It's great that there will be more money for teachers. If you really care about the future, it's important to help take care of the important teachers who take care of the kids.

UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN  
MADISON

April 15, 1999

Joint Finance Committee  
C/o Senator Brian Burke  
Representative John Guard  
Room 316 South  
State Capitol Building  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

*"For these are all our children; we will all profit or pay for whatever they become."  
James Baldwin*

Dear Representative Guard, Senator Burke and Joint Finance Committee Members;

We are writing this letter of support in regard to Governor Thompson's proposed initiatives related to child care and early childhood education. First and foremost, we thank the governor for taking an active leadership role in the development of initiatives that will help support the children and families of Wisconsin. Ongoing initiatives, such as these proposed, will ensure that Wisconsin sets standards that other states can aspire to.

As a group of early childhood professionals, who between us have over 100 years of combined experience working with children and families, we have seen the field evolve. The current research on brain development and the importance of the early years in a child's development support the emphasis and importance placed on quality and educational experiences for our youngest. We know more than can assist us all in creating and supporting essential programs and services for young children. If we use the information well and make good decisions based on what we know, there's no question that Wisconsin will set the national standard in giving meaning to the rhetoric of valuing children and enabling their success. As one nine year old puts it, "Children should not have to be 'made ready' to learn...they ARE ready to learn!"

The six early childhood education centers located on the UW-Madison campus are charged with the mission of developing and teaching "best practices" to students who have chosen the early childhood profession. Collectively, we support the governor's initiatives because:

--They acknowledge that to have a full workforce, quality child care services, including sick child care, must be developed, maintained and be made accessible for working parents.

--Whereas W-2 families are no longer prevalent on campus, we see a strong focus on employer sponsored initiatives that will support all of Wisconsin's work force.

--We see a strong focus on the development of infant care services. Quality infant care is to date the highest unmet need in this community, with the highest "cost of quality" to those who purchase it. In 1998, there was a 35% increase in people seeking infant care through the county subsidy system, but within a tighter market. Since January 1998, 500

Office of Campus Childcare

child care slots within the region have been lost, with 300 of those in licensed or certified care. Recently, an 18-month-old child died as a result of being left with an inadequate caretaker. Had quality child care been available, this tragedy could have been prevented. ...But, we need help to create and maintain these programs for working parents.

--Training and education are essential for quality. We cannot and must not rely on a child care work force without suitable qualifications. If left on their own to purchase the training needed, the underpaid workforce in this field simply cannot afford it. Your support is needed to ensure that mandatory training and education is available and utilized.

--The proposed increases in child care licensing positions are essential in ensuring safe environments for children.

--Lowering the co-payment for low-income families is good practice. This will help ensure that families will have access to higher quality care. Given a lesser cost, but lower quality option for child care, many families would have no other choice than to opt for the service that is affordable, at the expense of their child(ren).

--The TEACH program begins to address the salary and worth wage issues that plague the early childhood field. Over the past three years, turnover in our campus centers has increased dramatically. The fact is that out teachers, who all hold four-year academic degrees minimally, are paid an average hourly rate of \$11.00. They all too often move to the public school system wherein their salaries increase by \$5,000 annually. The responsibilities are the same-- to provide quality early childhood education. Obviously, these moves impact quality and consistency for children and families while presenting inconsistency in the "value" of the service. The bottom line is that to retain quality teachers, salaries must be higher. We encourage tripling the proposed \$3.5 million in order to make TEACH available to all levels of early childhood professionals.

We fully support all proposed initiatives, in entirety. To fund less would compromise the effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you. We absolutely believe that providing nurturing, stimulating and safe environments for our most vulnerable is non-negotiable for the process of ongoing learning and positive emotional development to occur. We understand that your decisions on budgeting for human needs are difficult. However, this is what great leaders do. They take on challenges and make them better. As a coalition of campus centers, we promise to work hard with you to implement these initiatives for the betterment of Wisconsin's children and families.

Sincerely,

*Lynn Edlefson for all*  
Lynn Edlefson, Campus Child Care Coordinator  
Debb Schaub, Director, Eagle's Wing  
Joan Ershler, Director, Waisman Early Childhood Program  
Amy Welk, Director, Bernie's Place  
Jackie Leckwee, Director, Preschool Lab--Linden site  
Lucinda Heimer, Director, Preschool Lab--Bethany site  
Mary Ellen Post, Director, University Houses Preschool

I'm a parent of a special ed child who has received services due to the good graces of the State of Wisconsin. So, the first thing I want to do is thank you for helping my daughter. If it weren't for the State of Wisconsin, PL 94-142 and aid to special education my daughter and my family would be in great difficulty. I understand Special Ed now is in some difficulty and so I want to return the favor. The best thing I can do in these few moments is talk about the current 2/3 funding versus, for lack of a better phrase, Special Ed the way it was.

As you know PL 94-142 was set up to help those children who if left unaided would fail in regular classrooms. The law provided funding as an incentive to schools to provide service and allowed that funding could be withheld if schools didn't follow the law. It's the old carrot and stick approach. Follow the law and you will be aided. Disregard the law and you will be penalized. Children were aided.

We are abandoning that structure. Now it's general aid that funds special education. General aid is based primarily on pupil count. It is not aid based upon compliance with 94-142. It is aid that will be disbursed irregardless of performance. What 2/3 funding has done is to remove the incentive to perform and diminish the consequences for failure. As handicapped aid gets smaller the reward diminishes and the stick becomes almost non-existent. Soon, there will be no carrot. There will be no stick. There are those who say generic 2/3 one size fits all funding is better. They are missing an important point. The blending of aid makes it's use more obscure and so also more vulnerable to abuse. It is disingenuous and a rhetorical slight of hand to say the two are the same and there is no harm done.

Why is state involvement in compliance important? It's important because there are many families out there who don't have the resources to look out for themselves. I know that to be true. Families do give up. The retreat from special ed funding only makes life more difficult for these people. This perception of retreat has and will bully them into silence.

As a member of the Middleton Pupil Services Parent Advisory Committee I've become aware of another element at play here. I've become convinced that much of the distress we're experiencing comes from the unpredictable appearance of hi-cost disabilities. It's a wild card, often more medical than educational, that comes out of nowhere, scuttling the best of plans. Only if we maintain a special education fund can we account for and get a handle on these costs. It's something we can't smooth over with 2/3 funding. 2/3 funding while worthy is obscuring special ed issues. You don't want general aid to fund special education. You don't really want handicapped aid frozen.

I urge you to stand behind the law. Let's be smart. Let's be accountable for what we do and plan in an honest and compassionate way for our future. Let's restore aid to special education.

Hello!

My name is Amanda Runk and I also go to Port Washington High School. What I would like to add to what Liz has just said, is that without the referendum <sup>in</sup> none of the maintenance which is now being taken care of would have been available due to revenue caps.

At our High School, our Auditorium was leaking and our roof in some areas was collapsing. Choir & Band students were being rained on during concerts. The repairs were needed long ago, however up until last year, there were no funds.

Also in the High School, our Chemistry & Biology labs are all being remodeled due to the referendum.

Currently some of the equipment is 20-30 years old, and are possible ~~to~~ <sup>hazards</sup> to health & safety ~~hazards~~.

Our school, before the referendum was passed was also not up to the required standards for Handicap access. Handicapped students were unable to attend classes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.



due to the lack of elevator & ramp  
~~access~~ availability. Now ~~at~~ finally,  
after lacking behind so many  
schools for so long, <sup>because of the referendum</sup> ~~these schools~~  
~~and the passing of the referendum~~,  
our school as well as the 4 others  
in our district will be code standard  
handicapp accessible

As another example, an elementary  
school in our district has been and is  
currently using their gymnasium  
as a cafeteria. Due to the referendum,  
the school's gymnasium & cafeteria  
will have separate settings. <sup>for the first time</sup> next year

These are just a few examples  
of how revenue caps have hindered  
the maintenance & upgrade of our  
school district. <sup>Schools</sup> ~~We~~ shouldn't have to  
~~rely~~ rely on a referendum like  
Port Washington High School or cutting  
of school sponsored programs <sup>like so many</sup> just <sup>other</sup> schools  
to fix a leaky roof.

regular meeting

at Port Washington High School, and I am  
pleased to speak to you about my feelings for, and  
concerns with, revenue caps.

Port Washington is a small town of about 19,000 people  
and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday enrollment at the high school was 914  
students. When the revenue caps came into effect in 1999  
they had a rocky beginning in our district of 5 schools. We  
had to cut \$1 million from the district's budget that year.  
Most of this money was taken out of maintenance and  
staff positions. We lost such "secondary" positions as  
alternate education coordinator and after-school super.

Since then, our financial situation has stabilized  
somewhat. We have managed not to suffer as significantly  
as other districts. However, most of our staff has a  
severe distaste for the revenue caps. It has affected  
morale and professional self-esteem, and that reflects  
on the students.

The Port Washington-Saukville School District now  
finds itself at a crossroads. Last spring the  
community narrowly passed a \$4.9 million referendum.  
This referendum provided for much-needed repair  
upgrades for which there were not enough resources in  
the budget. At the high school, we used the referendum  
funds to repair the collapsing auditorium and to provide  
handicap access throughout the entire school.  
If the referendum failed, the school district would  
have had to raise itself as collateral and gone into debt to

most press need filled  
had to cut significant  
support and take across  
As our prin al s, acc  
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much to continue to  
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t revenue caps  
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so.

# The Sheboygan Press

Founded December 17, 1907

Larry Antony, Publisher

## YOUR VIEWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Special education funding decimated in state budget

The governor's 1999-2001 biennium budget reflects an appalling erosion in the state of Wisconsin's commitment to fund special education services in our public schools. State law requires the state budget to support 63 percent of special education staff and special transportation costs. Instead, the state contributions have declined to 30 percent, and are falling fast.

Both federal and state laws mandate special education services to eligible students. Local school districts must provide these services or bear the overwhelming financial consequences brought through litigation.

Due to the erosion in the state funding for special education, school districts are forced to cannibalize regular education programs to pay for these special education services.

The pitting of regular education against special education is absolutely disastrous for the future of Wisconsin schools. It is a cancer that will destroy our staffs' collaborative efforts and torpedo our work in educational reforms.

These alarming consequences have led to the recent alliance between traditionally opposing groups.

Representatives from parent advocacy organizations and education groups met in Madison on March 10 promising to work together. This alliance pledged to alert the public and members of the Legislative Joint Finance Committee of these gloomy outcomes if the state of Wisconsin does not live up to its responsibility to fully fund the state mandated special education programs.

The new alliance represents thousands of parents affiliated with Wisconsin Family Ties, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, the Parent

*Letters to the Editor should be sent to:*

**The Sheboygan Press**

**P. O. Box 358**

**Sheboygan WI 53082-0358**

*All letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day to validate authorship. The Press reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.*

Education Project of Wisconsin, the Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support, the Council for the Developmentally Disabled, the Survival Coalition and the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy. This new alliance also includes the School Administrative Alliance, an umbrella organization of all school district superintendents, building principals, administrators of special services and school business officials. The state's largest teachers' union, the Wisconsin Education Association Council, also joined this new alliance of parents and educators.

This new alliance is calling on the public to contact their legislative representatives and request that the state of Wisconsin live up to its responsibility to fully fund special education services.

**Nissan B. Bar-Lev**  
**Director of Special Education**  
**for Calumet County**  
**and CESA #7**

Hello, my name is Josh Arton, and I am a  
senior at West H.S.

I would first like to thank Mr. Ford + Mr. Burke,  
as well as the entire committee for allowing me this opportunity  
to speak.

I would <sup>like</sup> to talk about my brother, David. David  
was born with a genetic condition known  
as Familial Dysautonomia. Dysautonomia affects  
only around 400 people worldwide, and as of  
now, there are still many unanswered questions  
concerning the cause + treatment of the syndrome.

who attends VHE in  
5th grade.

Because of ~~the~~ Dysautonomia, David still weighs  
under 50 lbs, ~~and is now~~ <sup>through PETs</sup> 12 yrs. old. He has  
limited motor skills + dexterity, as well as ~~several~~ <sup>among</sup> other  
physical limitations. Therefore, David has somewhat limited  
mobility, and ~~must~~ must be supervised at all times.  
~~At~~ a meeting between David's parents, teachers, therapists,  
and a written rec. from his physician, all agree  
that David's condition requires him to be accompanied  
by a 1 on 1 aid at all times during the school day.  
Due to a lack of funding, this is not possible.  
David's 1 on 1 aid is now responsible for  
the care of between 2 + 4 children w/ spec. needs  
simultaneously. Due to the ~~budget~~ <sup>revenue</sup> caps, the safety  
& education of not only my brother, but of the  
other spec. ed students is being compromised.  
Please change the law. Thank you.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and committee for hearing  
My name is Ambra Baldwin, and I <sup>was today</sup>  
am a senior at Mt. Horeb High School.

I'm here today to tell you about one of  
the problems our school has faced  
because of revenue caps.

When a contract agreement could not be met  
uncomfortable environment in school

<sup>8-4</sup> not willing to do things not paid

\* no ~~AHS~~ National Honor Society  
not able to get chaperones for  
events outside of the school day

\* papers slow to come back

\* no before or after help or make-up time

posters, arm bands, buttons

- It was hard going to class  
everyday knowing that things  
weren't settled. The teachers  
enthusiasm and motivation decreased  
~~with~~ everyday that ~~contracts weren't~~  
~~settled~~ negotiations continued. Eventually  
contracts were agreed upon, however  
the year that it took to get there  
was hard. I truly hope that  
students in the future won't have

~~the~~ <sup>can't be</sup> pressure of knowing that their  
teachers ~~aren't~~ there for them because of state law