

# 01hr\_AC-CC\_ab0607\_pt01



**Note:** The attached information on AB 607 was included with the 2001 AC-CC hearing records but it does not appear that the committee held a hearing on the bill.

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2001-02

(session year)

### Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on ... Corrections and Courts (AC-CC)

#### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

#### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



**WAUWATOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Relations • 12121 W. North Ave. • Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
(414) 773-1020/773-1000 • FAX: 773-1029

JUN 27 2001

June 13, 2001

Rep. Scott Walker  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53702

AB 607  
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Dear Scott:

As you know, Wauwatosa is an active participant in the state-sponsored Open Enrollment Program. We have both the largest number of applicants and the largest number of participants among Wisconsin school districts.

While we have embraced the program and next year will have more than 225 nonresident students enrolled under the open enrollment program, we would like to ask you to consider seeking legislative changes we feel would be beneficial:

1. Provide preferential treatment for the children of employees. This is part of the open enrollment legislation in a number of other states.
2. Adjust the deadlines to correspond to those for Chapter 220, or vice versa.
3. Allow districts to maintain a waiting list for open enrollment. This would enable all districts to serve the maximum number of families. Under current legislation, a student can apply to three districts. If accepted by all three, that student, in effect, prevents two other students from taking advantage of open enrollment.

We would be happy to work with you in whatever way possible to build support for such changes.

Sincerely,

Patricia Luebke  
Director of Student Services

Mary Pat Pfeil  
Director of Community Relations

C: Dr. Slotterback, Jim Weise

Letters/Walker-220.doc:sas





AUG 28 2001

PEGGY  
**ROSENZWEIG**

State Senator, 5th Senate District

Per your request, we have provided the following information.

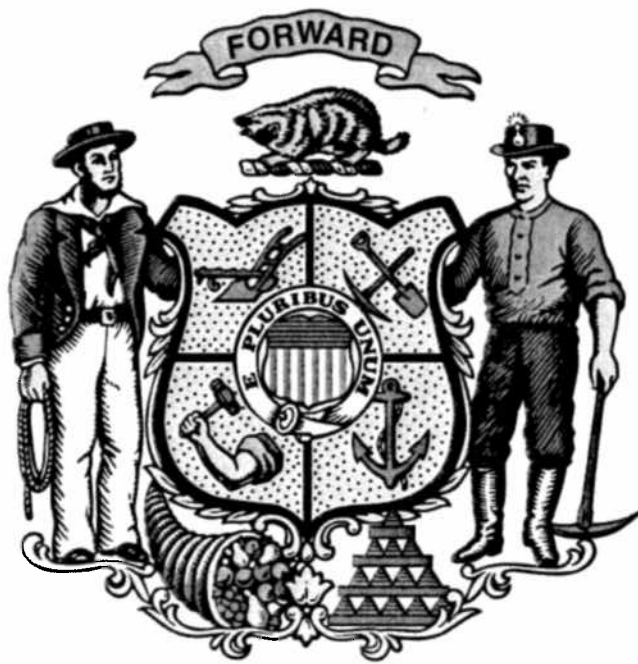
*Missy,*  
*Here is the*  
*bill we discussed.*  
*- Connie*

LRB-3536/1  
attached

AB 607  
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Madison Office: State Capitol  
608-266-2512 P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Legislative Hotline: 1-800-362-9472



TO: All Legislators

FR: Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig and Rep. Scott Walker

RE: Open enrollment in public schools

DT: Sign-on due date: October 1, 2001

AB 607  
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It has come to our attention that many school districts actively participating in the Open Enrollment Program would like to see improvements made to the program. Our companion bills, LRB 3536/2 and LRB 3718/1, represent our efforts to make these improvements, which include allowing districts to maintain waiting lists in order to serve the maximum number of families. Under current law, a student can apply to three districts and, if accepted by all three, effectively prevent two other students from taking advantage of open enrollment. This process is ultimately unfair to both school districts and students.

Our legislation also includes a provision requested by the Wauwatosa School District that allows for preferential treatment for children of district employees. This practice is common in other states.

A copy of the bill draft is attached. Please contact Connie in Sen. Rosenzweig's office at 266-2512 or Missy in Rep. Walker's office at 266-9180 by Monday, October 1, 2001 if you wish to co-sponsor this measure or have further questions. Please note that co-sponsors will be listed on both bills unless your office requests otherwise.



01-35362.pdf



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## WAUWATOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Office • 12121 W. North Ave. • Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
(414) 773-1010 • FAX: (414) 773-1019

November 27, 2001

Sen. Richard A. Grobschmidt  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Wisconsin State Senate  
104 South, Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53702

AB 607  
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Dear Sen. Grobschmidt and Other Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I apologize for my inability to testify in person Wednesday on S.B. 300, regarding changes in the open enrollment law. I am one of the educators invited to participate in the summit organized by Morris Andrews to discuss the future of education funding in Wisconsin.

I strongly believe that the creation of a wait list for the open enrollment program, which is the major change included in S.B. 300, is in keeping with the legislative intent of the original bill. Wisconsin's open enrollment program was specifically designed to offer parents and students more choice within the public education sector. However, the provision that allows students to apply to multiple districts, even though that is now limited to three, creates an obvious conflict. If a student happens to be accepted to all three districts, he or she then takes away the opportunity for another student.

Let me use Wauwatosa's specific numbers to illustrate. Last year, the Wauwatosa School Board agreed to accept 130 open enrollment students. We received 468 applications and, by lottery, selected 130 students for the open seats. Twenty-two of the accepted students never enrolled in a Wauwatosa public school for various reasons, including moving out of the area or acceptance in another school district. However, we were unable to fill those 22 seats with other applicants, because there is no provision under the law for acceptance after the initial notification date or for maintenance of a wait list.

In order to maximize participation in the open enrollment program, I strongly encourage you to endorse legislation which would allow us to maintain a wait list so we can accommodate as many families as possible by filling all available seats.

The second change advocated in S.B. 300 concerns preferential treatment for the children of district employees. As we continue to face the impact of cost controls, limited salary increases and a shrinking pool of teacher candidates, any "perk" is helpful. Such a provision, I believe, also enhances an employee's commitment to the district.



Thank you for the opportunity to share these views. If I can answer any questions or provide additional background information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Slotterback". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert Slotterback, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

C: Sen. Peggy Rosenzweig, Rep. Scott Walker, School Board Members, Mary Pat Pfeil,  
Pat Luebke



AB 607  
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**Testimony  
November 28, 2001  
Senate Education Committee Hearing**

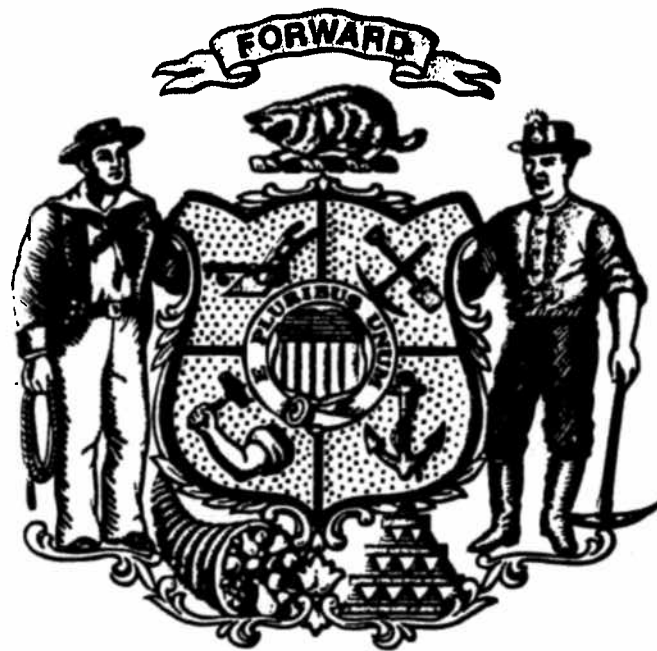
Chairman Grobschmidt and fellow committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify to the merits of Senate Bill 300 relating to open enrollment in public schools. I am the author of this bill in the Senate and my colleague Rep. Scott Walker is the author of the companion bill in the Assembly. Unfortunately, Rep. Walker could not be here today because of a prior commitment but it is my understanding that he has submitted written testimony supporting this legislation.

Senate Bill 300 was borne of several discussions I had with the Wauwatosa School Board, as well as administrators from the West Allis school district. They brought to my attention two deficits they found in the current open enrollment program and asked me to help to rectify the situation.

As you will note, Senate Bill 300 is made up of two major components: establishing waiting lists for school districts and offering preference to children of district employees. Allowing a school district to create a waiting list of potential student enrollees would permit each district to serve more families. Currently, a student may apply to up to three school districts. Should the student be accepted at all three districts but of course, enroll in only one, the other two districts would be left with empty spaces they could not fill due to the deadline restrictions of the open enrollment program. This is unfortunate, especially to the families who would like to attend school in a district where the demand for admittance is high. Additionally, there is a provision in the bill that provides preferential treatment to the children of employees of a school district. This is an attempt to assist employees who would like to have their children near them throughout the workday.

As you consider this bill, please keep in mind that during this time of economic crisis, this legislation has no fiscal impact on the State. I believe this legislation would greatly improve the open enrollment program in Wisconsin and I would appreciate your support. Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer questions.





## Scott Walker

Wauwatosa's Representative in the Wisconsin State Assembly

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date  
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### Testimony of Rep. Scott Walker on SB 300

Good morning! As the Assembly lead for Senate Bill 300, I want to express my support for changes to the current open enrollment program. These alterations have been requested by the Wauwatosa School District, which I represent. Wauwatosa boasts both the highest number of open enrollment applicants and participants in the state. SB 300 seeks to make two important changes to this program.

First, the bill grants open enrollment preference to the children of nonresident school district employees. Current law already gives this preference to nonresident students and siblings of students who already attend the school. If the school receives more applications than it can accommodate, all other open enrollment students must be selected on a random basis. Giving the children of employees the first opportunity to enroll makes sense from an employer standpoint. This small change represents a way to enhance employee morale, retention and recruitment by giving priority to the needs of teachers and others who work for the school district.

Second, the legislation makes the application process more fair by allowing school districts to compile a waiting list of open enrollment applicants. Since a student may apply to – and thus be accepted by – more than one school district, another student may be unnecessarily prevented from attending the school of his or her choice. Maintaining a waiting list would enable a school district to enroll an alternate student if a pupil already accepted through the program decides to attend school elsewhere.

In summary, these changes allow school districts to enroll the maximum number of applicants, while better enabling nonresident teachers and other workers to enroll their children at the parents' place of employment. Ultimately, SB 300 improves the existing open enrollment program for school districts, their employees and families in general.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. Please contact me with any questions at 266-9180.



**Gilbert, Melissa**

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**From:** Gilbert, Melissa  
**Sent:** Friday, February 01, 2002 1:57 PM  
**To:** Rep.Nass; Olsen, Luther; Grothman, Glenn; Gundrum, Mark; Stone, Jeff (Legislature); Rep.Underheim; Rep.McCormick; Rep.Williams; Cullen, David; Sinicki, Christine; Lehman, John  
**Subject:** New amendment for Monday's exec on AB 607

After speaking with members on the floor yesterday, I drafted the following amendment to AB 607 (open enrollment), which comes up for a vote Monday in the Education Reform committee. There seems to be a consensus that the waiting list is fine without the preference for children of school district employees.

Please let my office know ASAP if you have any concerns or questions about this amendment. Thanks.



0307

**Scott Walker**

State Representative - Wauwatosa  
Scott.Walker@legis.state.wi.us  
608/266-9180  
www.RepScottWalker.com