

B

Subject: Meeting on school funding

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2002 08:36:58 -0600

From: Tom Beebe <tbeebe@wisconsinsfuture.org>

Organization: Institute for Wisconsin's Future

To: tnation@doyle2002.com

Thad:

Thanks for agreeing to meet to discuss school funding.

I live in Fort Atkinson and work in Milwaukee. Next Tuesday (Jan. 8), I have an 8:30 a.m. dentist appointment in Fort and this would be a good day for me to be in Madison. My suggestion is that we meet any time after 10:30 ... you pick the time and location.

Please let me know as soon as you can so I can set up some other appointments, too.

If Jan. 8 doesn't work, no problem. I can meet you anywhere, anytime for the most part.

I also left you a voicemail message.

Thanks.

Tom

--

Thomas S. Beebe, Education Outreach Specialist
Institute for Wisconsin's Future
1717 South 12th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
414-384-9094 (voice)
414-384-9098 (fax)
920-650-0525 (cell)
tbeebe@wisconsinsfuture.org
www.wisconsinsfuture.org
www.excellentsschools.org

Barb Worcester (Decker)
Jennifer Kammerud (DPI)
Dan Kammerud (Jouch)



COPY
From
Jim Pleuss
Out. County,

State Senator Bob Welch

State Capitol ♦ Madison

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Bob Welch 608-266-0751

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2002

WELCH ANNOUNCES EDUCATION STUDY

Facts show school spending/teacher salaries higher than surrounding states

MADISON- Today state Senator Bob Welch (R-Redgranite) released a study which indicates that Wisconsin public schools stack up well when compared to other Midwestern states (Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota), but we do it at a much higher price.

The Welch Education Report is an in-depth study of the amount of tax dollars spent on public education and teacher salaries in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. The Welch Education Report relies on information provided by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

"According to an ALEC composite of education measures, Wisconsin ranks 3rd in the nation, which is excellent," Welch said. "The problem is surrounding states rank close if not higher than Wisconsin, and do it by spending substantially less per student."

ALEC ranked per pupil spending, a number one ranking would be the state that spends the most, fiftieth would be the state that spends the least per pupil.

Out of the Midwestern states covered in this study, Wisconsin is the highest spending state, ranking 9th in dollars spent per pupil between 1998-1999 (\$7,264 spent per pupil); Minnesota ranks 14th (\$6,946 per pupil); Iowa ranks 32nd (\$5,725 per pupil); South Dakota ranks 44th (\$5,066); and North Dakota spends the least of the Midwestern states ranking 48th (\$4,597).

If Wisconsin were to reduce its per pupil spending to Iowa levels, Wisconsin taxpayers would save \$1.35 billion per year in property and state taxes.

The amount of money Wisconsin spent per pupil between the years of 1978 and 1998 increased at a higher rate (34.3%) than any of the states Welch examined.

"People make the argument that we are not spending enough on public education, and I think the facts contained in this report completely refute that argument," Welch said.

Opponents of Welch's *Freeze it and Fix it Plan* have argued that school districts would be in trouble if their levies were frozen, but because of Wisconsin's declining enrollment, money spent per student would actually rise.

Finally, teachers across the state have been arguing that their pay is inadequate since the inception of the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO). The Welch Education Report ranks Wisconsin 15th in average teacher salary at \$43,507 per year. It is interesting to note that the average Wisconsin salary is \$28,531.

"During a time when inflation is much less than 3.8% and companies are either closing their doors or laying people off, the QEO looks like a pretty good deal to the average Wisconsin worker," Welch said.

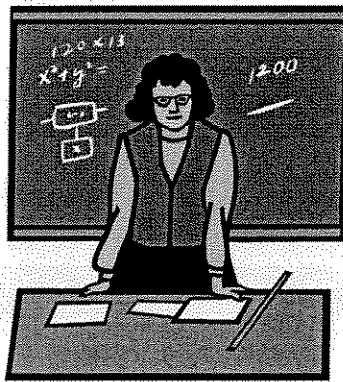
###

Enclosed is a copy of The Welch Education Report. To obtain a complete copy of the ALEC Report Card on American Education: A State By-State Analysis, check:

<http://www.alec.org/meSWFiles/pdf/education2000.pdf>

The Welch Education Report

Addressing Long Standing Myths with Fact



by:
Wisconsin State Senator
ROBERT T. WELCH

There has been some talk recently that the *Freeze it and Fix it Plan* that I and other Senate Republicans introduced will lead to decreasing the quality of our education system. In the pages that follow I present a number of arguments that prove that is simply not true.

What Democrats are saying about the *Freeze it and Fix it Plan*:

Recently a number of leading Democrats in the state legislature have warned that even a one-year freeze in spending will cause great harm to our K-12 system.

“These are devastating cuts for public education,” said Senator Chuck Chvala. (Chvala warns of Education Cuts, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 15, 2002).

“Students will see programs slashed and opportunities disappear before their eyes,” state Senator Brian Burke recently in a column he penned for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on January 13, 2002.

“Schools are already hard pressed under revenue caps,” said Representative Spencer Black in an article in the Wisconsin State Journal on January 9, 2002.

These statements are reactionary, and once you thoroughly review all the statistics, you realize they are simply not correct.

This report relies on the recent report from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) titled, **The Report Card on American Education: A State-By-State Analysis**. Copies of this report can be obtained from me, or you can print off a copy from the ALEC homepage, www.alec.org.

Taking the 5 best performing states as examples, Wisconsin has consistently been at the top of the national ranking for student performance. The other 4 states are North Dakota, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota.

It can be argued that the upper Midwestern states, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, are the top 5 states in the Union for education performance. This can be shown by 2000 SAT scores.

State	2000 SAT National Rank
North Dakota	1
Iowa	2
Wisconsin	3
South Dakota	4
Minnesota	4

A recent study by ALEC concluded that these five states rated very high on a composite of several education measures:

State	ALEC Ranking
Iowa	1
Minnesota	2
Wisconsin	3
North Dakota	14
South Dakota	19

To achieve these results, excellent education for their states' children, spending in the states varies greatly.

State	Rank of State, expenditures per pupil, 1998-1999	Actually cost per pupil
Wisconsin	9	\$7,264
Minnesota	14	6,946
Iowa	32	5,725
South Dakota	44	5,066
North Dakota	48	4,597

If we spent what Iowa spends per student (\$5,725 per student), Wisconsin taxpayers would save \$1.35 billion per year in property and state taxes.

There is even more to this story. Between 1978 and 1998, Wisconsin spending increased by 33% in real dollars, while total enrollment went down by 1%.

State	Year of Enrollment	Total Spend on Education (1998 dollars)	% Change between years	Cost Per Pupil	% Change between years
Wisconsin	1978	\$4,793,365	-----	\$5,408	-----
Wisconsin	1998	6,389,113	+33.3%	\$7,264	+34.3%

Comparing per student increases over the last 20 years reveals that Wisconsin increased spending faster than any other state.

State	Per Student Spending 1978 (1998 dollars)	Per Student Spending 1998	% Change between years
Wisconsin	\$4,408	\$7,264	+34.3%
South Dakota	4,003	5,066	+26.6
Minnesota	5,816	6,946	+19.4
Iowa	5,317	5,725	+7.7
North Dakota	4,772	4,597	-3.7

Over the next 10 years projections show that Wisconsin school enrollment will drop by 3.8% and the spending per student-even if the levy is frozen-will therefore increase.

Year	Total Number of Students (estimated)	Total Money Spent under <i>Freeze it and Fix it</i> (estimate)	Amount Spent per student under <i>Freeze it and Fix it</i> (estimate)
2001	875,000	\$6.389 B	\$7301
2002	872,000	6.389 B	7326
2003	868,000	6.389 B	7360
2004	864,000	6.389 B	7394
2005	860,000	6.389 B	7429

Another complaint we hear from Democrats is that teachers in Wisconsin are not adequately compensated because of the QEO; however, we pay our teachers far more than these high performing neighboring states.

State	1999 Average Teacher Salary	National Ranking of Teacher Salary
Wisconsin	\$43,507	15
Minnesota	40,707	23
Iowa	36,209	38
South Dakota	29,387	50
North Dakota	29,215	51

We rank 4th highest in the nation for what we pay our teachers compared to the average wage of all Wisconsin taxpayers.

State	Average State Salary	Average Teacher Salary	Rank
Wisconsin	\$28,531	\$43,507	4
Iowa	26,026	36,209	20
South Dakota	22,751	29,387	39
North Dakota	22,990	29,215	41
Minnesota	32,075	40,707	42

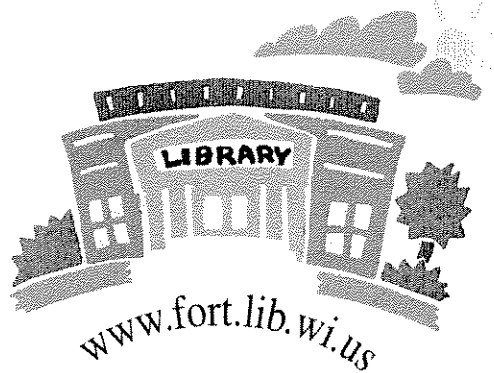
Over the last 20 years we have dropped our pupil/teacher ratio dramatically, as have other states for far less money.

State	1978 Ratio	1998 Ratio	1998 Rank
North Dakota	16.5	14.4	9
South Dakota	16.9	14.5	13
Iowa	17	17	15
Wisconsin	18.6	15.5	20
Minnesota	18.2	15.8	25

Conclusion

The facts tell the whole story. Wisconsin has always been a first rate state in which to receive a public education.

If we freeze school spending for two years it is very unlikely that we will drop from our first place ranking in education quality because our neighboring states have maintained their quality for far less money.



February 4, 2002

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

The board of trustees of the Dwight Foster Public Library wishes to convey to you its alarm at Governor McCallum's budget reform bill. If this bill becomes law, it would have a devastating effect on our library in Fort Atkinson and on all public libraries in Wisconsin.

Since public libraries are unfortunately considered a "nonessential" service by municipalities, we would be among the first cuts made if shared revenue were eliminated or dramatically cut as proposed. In Fort Atkinson, we have already been informed that the entire elimination of the library budget would be an option seriously considered...along with similar cuts to or elimination of the Parks and Recreation program, the pool, the museum, the senior center, and the youth center...all those things that have made for a wonderful quality of life in Fort Atkinson for so very many years.

Our municipality has worked diligently for over four months to prepare a fiscally prudent budget for 2002. It was presented to the citizens for comment. It was adopted by the city council. Taxes were then levied to support the programs and services so carefully planned for 2002. The shared revenue estimates from the state were an important part of that decision-making process. To renege on the state's commitment to municipalities at this point in the process is, quite simply, unconscionable.

The Governor is proposing the development of regional cooperatives to eliminate or reduce duplication of government services as originally proposed by the Kettl Commission. We couldn't agree more! For over 25 years, libraries have led the way in developing shared services like these: library systems, interlibrary loan and delivery, shared automation consortia, WISCAT, BadgerLink, cooperative purchasing arrangements, and contracts for county library services. Sharing reduces duplication and can improve efficiency and effectiveness. We are proud to say we believe we give the taxpayers the best possible value for their dollar because we have a long tradition of sharing. It is not a slogan for us. It is a way of life. But now it appears that those of us who have been in the forefront with these cooperative ventures stand to be penalized the most.

Dwight Foster Public Library

102 East Milwaukee Ave.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Phone 920-563-7790
Fax 920-563-7774

We understand the difficult position in which you find yourself. There are no good choices when you have to start cutting. So we offer some ideas for your consideration. A realistic source of revenue to stabilize the state's economy and reduce the deficit would be to consider eliminating the state sales tax exemptions for selected businesses. This would net \$1.6 billion as identified by the Kettl Commission of 2000. If you are not open to that idea, we would urge you to consider further cuts to the prison system. (We did catch the headline *Journal Sentinel* article on 1/27/02 concerning the Stanley prison.) Additionally, we do not believe that the Department of Transportation budget should be sacrosanct. Even though the gasoline tax provides the majority of funding for the DOT budget, we would urge you to *reduce* the gasoline tax, cut the DOT budget, and increase the state tax to bring in general purpose revenue over which you have more control. We respectfully suggest to you that there is little reason Wisconsin has to have state and local highway spending 33% above the national per-capita average if it can't afford to have public libraries. Perhaps you might work with municipalities to phase out shared revenue over an extended period of time which would allow municipalities the time to respond appropriately and replace the state dollars with local ones.

Please remember that funds spent on libraries provide critically important educational resources, help promote community development, and afford a gateway to the world of information for *all* of our citizens.

Try to envision the state of Wisconsin without public libraries. We are putting our faith in you to ensure that this nightmare won't happen.

Should you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Library Director Connie Meyer. She would be happy to answer questions, provide you with additional information, or give you feedback on how proposals would impact our library locally. Thank you most sincerely for your consideration of our viewpoint.

The Dwight Foster Public Library Board of Trustees,



Beverly Tucker,
President



Susan Wenger,
Vice President


(Continued)



Jill Ottow,
Secretary



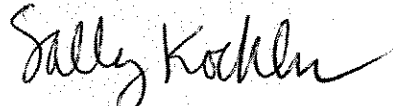
Bill Camplin,
City Council Representative



John Wilmet,
City Manager



Paul Babcock,
Member (and County Board Member)



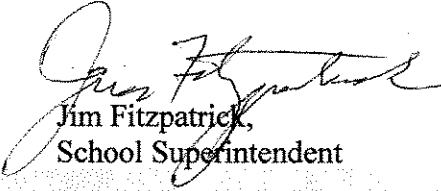
Sally Koehler,
Member



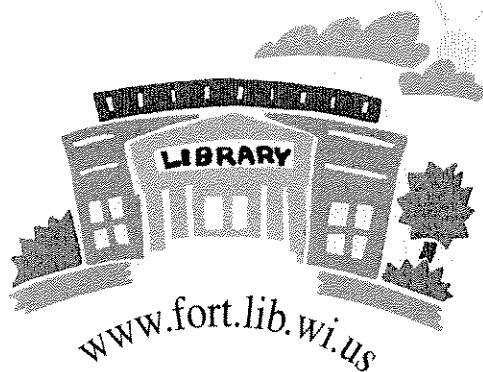
Helen Rose,
Member



Mark Mittag,
Member



Jim Fitzpatrick,
School Superintendent



Dear Representative Ward:

Ask Netscape cofounder Marc Andreessen's dad about the role a Wisconsin public library played in his son's life. (*Wisconsin State Journal* reprint enclosed). Ask Susan Parrish about the difference a library made in her family's health. (*Family Circle* article enclosed).

Ask any one of the millions of users of public libraries in Wisconsin each year how much he or she values quality library service. From a new mother coping with postpartum depression to a young man trying to make sound career decisions to a family who wants their child to discover a love of reading to someone who needs a meeting room, a tax form, car buying advice, or just some entertainment to help them live their daily life in the most positive way possible--these are all examples of how public libraries touch lives every single day.

In 2001, over 123,000 visits were made to the Dwight Foster Public Library. That's approximately 400 people per day. And that doesn't count people who visit us "virtually" by making use of our electronic resources. People make the choice every day about how they spend their time and their hard earned dollars. Evidence shows that in tough economic times, library business booms. We think, given a choice of investing \$21 annually which allows for pooling of resources and enables access to the world, the library represents the best investment money can buy.* Even citizens who do not use library resources generally understand and support the important role we play in a free and democratic society.

That's the reason Assembly Bill 1 is so very alarming to me as the director of a Wisconsin public library. I believe that in its current form, Assembly Bill 1 imperils all public libraries in Wisconsin. Obviously, some libraries would be more endangered than others. And while it appears there may be some statutory protections in place for the current budget year for libraries, the long-term picture is far grimmer. Unless some provision to protect public libraries is enacted, I think it is safe to say that nearly all Wisconsin public libraries would be affected. History has shown that in Fort Atkinson, as well as in most localities throughout our state, libraries are near the bottom of the priority list when it comes to funding. While we do not know for certain how our city would choose to make cuts, we do know for certain that even a small cut to our library's

Dwight Foster Public Library

102 East Milwaukee Ave.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Phone 920-563-7790
Fax 920-563-7774

budget would be difficult to manage. We know this because we have already been struggling for a number of years with the challenges inherent in responding to a growing demand for services and rising operational costs, without corresponding increases in funds. During last year's budget process, our library board had to make cuts that some would consider not in the best long-term interest of the library, but ones that had to be made to "live within our means." The city then cut further. This has been our reality. Any further reduction of funds will have a direct, immediate, and noticeable impact for our library. Couple a potential dramatic decrease in funds with the inability to catch up later due to the restrictions in taxing ability and growth limitations in this proposed bill and you begin to understand our deep level of concern.

Any observer of the city budget process can share with you the difficult choices our city council makes every year to keep our city's rate of spending within the state's expenditure restraint program. I believe we have done our job of being fiscally prudent and balancing all the priorities within the context of a growing city. That our city lacks a human resources director, an information technology director, and a buildings and grounds director speaks volumes about how bare bones we administer our city.

As far as the library is concerned, I can personally assure you that we are committed to providing the best possible service with the limited tax dollars we receive. In addition, we work hard to raise private funds to help us be a better library for our community. We have always considered this an important obligation. But there is simply no substitute for tax dollars to provide for the ongoing operational costs of a public library. Reliance on private funds for basic library services would have a devastating effect and could easily result in the dismantling of the institution of public libraries throughout Wisconsin.

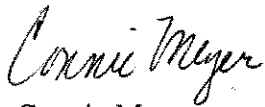
I don't envy your position of trying to deal with this impending budget crisis. The Board of Trustees of the Dwight Foster Public Library did offer several suggestions for other ways it could be managed. I support those ideas.

Make no mistake, our citizens deserve to have responsible government running as efficiently as possible. Please understand that the Dwight Foster Public Library is not averse to change. Nor do we believe in protecting turfs. An example of this is the automation consortium (BRIDGES) currently in the planning stages which involves the partnership of the Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, and Palmyra libraries and the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System. Sharing is something libraries do best. And that sharing goes beyond sharing with each other. It also includes sharing with other city departments as well as our community at large.

I think Walter Cronkite said it best, "Whatever the costs of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

Please help protect our state's collective investment in this vital resource available to **all** people...public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Meyer".

Connie Meyer
Director

Enclosures

*\$21 is the average per capita tax rate for library services in Jefferson County for the year 2000



NETSCAPE PROTEGE'S NEW LISBON PARENTS RECALL BEGINNINGS

COMPUTER WHIZ KID TAUGHT HIMSELF

Published on Sunday, August 13, 1995
© 1995 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Byline: BY LEE HAWKINS JR., BUSINESS REPORTER

The New Lisbon parents of Netscape whiz Marc Andreessen, 24, say they are surprised by their son's computer success, and swear they never pushed him into computers.

"We followed his interests and tried to make it available to him," said Lowell Andreessen, Marc's father.

Today, that access has served Marc Andreessen well -- he now holds a \$52 million stake in Netscape, which saw its stock rise to a market value of almost \$2 billion after its initial public stock offering Wednesday.

Marc was a primary developer of the Netscape software that helps computer users get around on the Internet. Netscape, originally priced to be offered at \$28 a share, opened at \$71 a share Wednesday before closing at about \$58 a share. It was at \$52 a share at the close Friday.

"He's been in computers ever since he was a small boy... I think I've seen it written that he was age 9... it was at least around then," Lowell Andreessen said. "We bought him a TRS-80 from Radio Shack. They were just cheap little things, not more than \$200 or \$300."

Lowell Andreessen said he moved his family to New Lisbon, in Juneau County about 70 miles north of Madison, from Iowa in 1973 to work for Pioneer Hi-bred International, an agricultural seed company.

He is a semi-retired district sales manager with the company. His wife, Patricia, works for Lands' End in Reedsburg. They also have a son Jeff, 19, who will be a sophomore at UW-Madison this fall and is majoring in journalism.

"We have received a lot of calls regarding this," he said, referring to all the hype surrounding his son, including recent comparisons to Microsoft giant Bill Gates.

But despite the big-time speculation, Lowell Andreessen said the small-town libraries of Mauston and New Lisbon really helped make his son what he is today.

"The librarians in those little towns helped him and he was always treated very well. Small-town libraries are a real asset to students," he said.

As for the schools, Lowell Andreessen said his son was often too busy studying computers and computer books to worry about his academic performance.

"Mark was a good student, but I'm sure that he could have studied harder to get better grades. But, computers were his first love," he said. "There were certainly a lot of students in his class who were just as bright or brighter than he was."

He said that when Marc Andreessen graduated in 1989, the school had a total enrollment of less than 500 students. "I suppose there were under 50 in his graduating class," he said.

Coming from a small school, he said, meant limited resources. "New Lisbon at that time did not have computers (which prompted Marc to ask for a home computer). He learned how to write the basics out of books he checked out of the libraries," the elder Andreessen said.

"So, I guess you could say he was self-taught. We did not know computers at home so there was no advice I or his mother could have given," he said.

Young Andreessen's computer pursuits have taken him to Mountain View, Calif., to be closer to his Netscape responsibilities and colleagues. "We don't get to talk to him that much because he is a very busy man," his father said.

Although he misses his son, Andreessen said he does not plan to move outside of Wisconsin to be closer. "We are Wisconsinites through and through," he said.

Photo/no credit

Stock for Netscape Communications Corp., cofounded by Marc Andreessen, formerly of New Lisbon, traded as high as \$75 Wednesday. The computer software company is based in Mountain View, Calif.

AP photo

Netscape Communications Corp., co-founded by Jim Clark, left, and Mark Andreessen, makes a popular Internet browser program called Netscape.

Search again:

All articles © Madison Newspapers, Inc. and may not be republished without permission.
If you have questions or comments about the archives, please send us [feedback](#).

Return to [archives](#) or [madison.com](#)

Profiles in Courage

The Parrishes went undiagnosed for three years after contracting Lyme disease during a walk in the Wisconsin countryside.

The Silent that

It started as an innocent walk in the countryside. It ended as a nightmare.

Susan Parrish, her two sons, Blake, 9, and Chase, 6, and her daughter, Skye, 2, had taken many walks in the lovely rolling green hills in their hometown of Waukesha, Wisconsin. But that day in 1992 was especially inviting. It was the first warm day of spring, and there wasn't a trace of snow. They knew they might find wild asparagus, so they headed for the tall grass. Dressed in shorts, they pushed their way through the hip-high sea of green, marveling that they had the place to themselves.

"It never occurred to us that people might have been staying away for a reason," says Susan.

That night Susan picked a tick from Blake's ear.

A week later they all came down with flu symptoms. All, that is, except Wayne, the father, who hadn't gone on the walk. Nagging ill health in the form of sore joints, fever

“If anything was going to make us well, it would be the warm hearts of all the people who helped us.”

and stiff necks plagued Susan and the children all summer. Then in September, Chase had a stroke. This was followed by a second stroke a month later, and a third one a month after that. Doctors were at a loss, and could only suggest that the family might benefit from a milder climate. And so the Parrishes moved to Tampa.

The strokes stopped for Chase, but the children continued to have health problems. Skye would fall down for no apparent reason, and the boys continued to have flulike symptoms. One day Susan found a strange rash on her calf, but by the time she got to her doctor's office, it had disappeared. She told the doctor she thought she might have Lyme disease and asked to be tested for it.

"He just laughed at me, saying that everybody thought they had Lyme disease," Susan recalls. He didn't give her

the test, suggesting instead that she might have multiple sclerosis. But even after she tested negative for multiple sclerosis, the doctor did not test her for Lyme. Today, six years later, she looks back at that doctor's visit with a combination of anger and regret. "If he had only tested me for Lyme disease," she says, "it might have saved us years of agony, to say nothing of thousands of dollars."

But that visit did accomplish something—Susan decided not to rely on doctors alone. She vowed to educate herself and learn all she could about her family's illness. "I believe that strong faith can get you through anything," she says, "but that doesn't mean you shouldn't do what you can to help yourself." She spent hours at the library, poring over medical texts and journals. In investigating Chase's strokes, she gave herself what amounted to a mini-course in neurology. And by a long process of elimination, it became more and more of a possibility to her that they might all have contracted Lyme—a disease almost unknown in Florida at the time and thought to be found only in the Northeast.

Then, one day in 1995, Chase had another stroke. Susan saw her son's eye suddenly droop and his mouth sag, and she watched in horror as he fell to the floor, unable to speak. "No, not again!" she screamed. Hysterical, she rushed for the phone to call an ambulance.

The hospital confirmed that Chase had indeed had his fourth stroke. He was only 10. At the time of his release, Susan had a conference with his doctor, who was not encouraging about his future. "He'll probably go on having strokes until one of them kills him," he told her frankly. Unwilling to believe that, Susan asked that he at least be tested for Lyme disease. The doctor said he saw no point in putting the boy through any further tests.

But this time, Susan was in no mood to accept any more medical intransigence. She excused herself, went to the bathroom and had a good cry. When she came back, she felt stronger, and she calmly told the doctor that she would sign no release papers for her son until he was tested for Lyme. She got her way, and the test revealed that Chase

Roul Tunley is a freelance writer in Stockton, New Jersey.

Photos: Ken Sherman/Phototake NYC (left); Ron Sanford/The Stock Market (right).



Various health problems and frequent hospital stays don't stop the Parrish family from enjoying everyday life.



Epidemic threatened our lives^{FC} By Roul Tunley

did indeed have the disease. Subsequent tests revealed that the whole family had it, except for Wayne, who had not been on that fateful walk three years before.

From her studies Susan knew that Lyme disease is an infection caused by a spirochete—a type of bacteria—called *Borellia burgdorferi*, which is carried by some deer ticks. If diagnosed early, it is easy to cure with antibiotics. But if left untreated, Lyme can cause arthritis, eye complications and neurological and cardiovascular problems. After AIDS, it is the fastest-growing disease in the United States. In 1995 there were 11,700 reported cases; in 1996 there were 16,455—an increase of 41 percent.

When the Parrishes moved to Florida from Wisconsin, they joined the Idlewild Baptist Church in the north Tampa suburbs, where they lived. It was a fortuitous decision. With 6,000 members and a powerful pastoral program, the church became a towering source of strength for the family. One day, at a particularly low point in her morale, Susan broke down and told her Bible class about the family's ordeal: the debilitating illness and the increasing medical bills. When she finished, the class was in tears. A member of that class explained later, "We just formed a circle around her and prayed."

But the church did more than pray. It set up a tax-exempt Parrish Family Fund to raise money for the medical bills. Church members

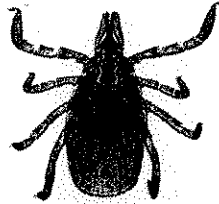
even brought food and did housework for the Parrishes on the days when Susan and the children were too weak from courses of intravenous antibiotics. "I never asked for these things," says Susan. "They just went ahead and did them."

Susan and the children also depended heavily on Wayne, who has never wavered in his support and optimism. "It's not easy," he says, "but I'm the only one who's not affected by the disease, and if I can't be strong, then who can?" Susan adds, "Coming to terms with the fact that we may not have much time together has made us appreciate each other. We make every day count."

In doing more research on Lyme, Susan learned that Charles Ray Jones, M.D., a noted pediatrician in Connecticut, was perhaps the nation's leading authority on the disease. She called and asked if

he would see her children. He agreed. When she calculated the total cost of the trip to be \$4,000, she told Jack Oliver and Reno Zunz, the two pastors at the church, that she couldn't afford the trip. They immediately urged her to go. "But the money?" she asked. No problem.

The pastors hastily printed up some flyers and sent them around to the Sunday school classes. "An hour later, after classes, Jack and Reno came up to me and said the full amount had been pledged," recalls Susan. "I was speechless." One woman, a schoolteacher who was far from wealthy, had written a check for \$500. In a single week-end, church members had raised the traveling expenses. "I knew if anything was going to ►►►►►►►►



How to Avoid Lyme Disease

- Be aware of high-risk places—wooded, bushy and tall-grass areas—when you go hiking or camping. Walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with brush or long grass.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks are easier to see. Tuck pants legs into socks or boots, and wear a hat.
- Apply repellents containing DEET to clothes and skin.
- After an outing, check your body for ticks. The back of the neck, the scalp, the groin area and the back of the knees are especially at risk.
- If you find a tick, remove it with tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Try not to crush the tick's body so that no fluid escapes.

Photos: Tom Kane/Black Star (top right and inset); Carolina Biological Supply/Phototake NY (tick).

What You Need to Know

- Lyme disease was first discovered in the United States in the 1970's when an unusually high number of children developed rheumatoid arthritis in Lyme, Connecticut. A mother suspected the outbreak was not a fluke, and persisted in her campaign until medical experts confirmed her hunch.

- Lyme is an infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacteria, *Borellia burgdorferi*, named after the doctor who identified it.

- A bite from a tick that carries the bacteria can pass the disease on to humans. Dogs, cats and other animals can carry the tick.

- All 48 mainland states have reported cases, but it is most prevalent in the Northeast. The largest number of cases, in descending order, are found in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

- Until 1996 the number of cases soared each year. But in 1997 cases were down because of drier weather or because people were learning better how to protect themselves from Lyme.

- Ticks prefer wooded and grassland habitats. Shaded lawns can harbor ticks, although most lawns are generally too short and dry to support them.

- The high-risk months are from May through August.

- Diagnosis is tricky (early blood tests of Lyme patients often show up negative). Symptoms are so similar to those of other ailments such as the flu and arthritis that anything except a clinical diagnosis is difficult.

- The recent discovery of an antibody in the spinal fluid of Lyme patients, however, may make it easier to detect the disease in the future.

- Lyme is treatable and is not contagious. If detected early, antibiotics can practically insure a cure. When it goes undetected for months or years, as with the Parrishes, it can be serious.

- Two different vaccines for Lyme are currently being tested.

- For more information, call the American Lyme Disease Foundation: 1-800-876-LYME; or the Lyme Disease Foundation: 1-800-886-LYME.

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ From page 45

make us well, it would be the warm hearts of these people," says Susan.

Dr. Jones told Susan about a new experimental treatment conducted by William Fife, Ph.D., a professor at Texas A & M Health Science Center. He suggested the Parrishes try it. The month-long treatment requires patients to sit in a hyperbaric chamber wearing helmets flooded with pure oxygen in an attempt to destroy the bacteria. Because the procedure is experimental, there was no charge, but the plane fare and the cost of a month's lodging and food for Susan and the children would come to \$7,000.

Again the efforts of the Idlewild Baptist Church made the trip possible. Pastors Oliver and Zunz arranged for articles about the family in local newspapers, as well as a television interview. One of the people watching the TV program was George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees, who have their spring training home in Tampa. He presented a check for \$7,000 on behalf of the Yankees, and Susan, Blake, Chase and Skye were on their way.

The Parrishes' situation improved somewhat after the hyperbaric chamber treatment—enough for Susan to feel that they would benefit from it again. And she has discovered that such chambers

now exist in Florida. Dr. Jones believes that additional treatment could make the Parrishes better, but the idea of a permanent cure for them is debatable. "Symptoms can be alleviated so they can live more normally," he says, "but because the disease got such a big head start, they'll probably always have some problems."

In the year since the chamber treatment, the children have continued to rack up a number of hospitalizations for one Lyme-related ailment or another. And Susan's golden-haired healthy looks at the age of 39 belie the precariousness of her health. Last winter an inoperable aneurysm was discovered in her brain. For the Parrishes, every new day can usher in a new worry. "It's like the sun's out one minute and the rain comes rolling in the next," Wayne says of the unpredictability of his family's well-being.

Not long ago, Susan's strength in dealing with the family's problems seemed to unravel. In a frightening panic attack, she was overwhelmed with feelings of uncertainty. She

“This ordeal has made us appreciate each other even more. We try to make every day count.”

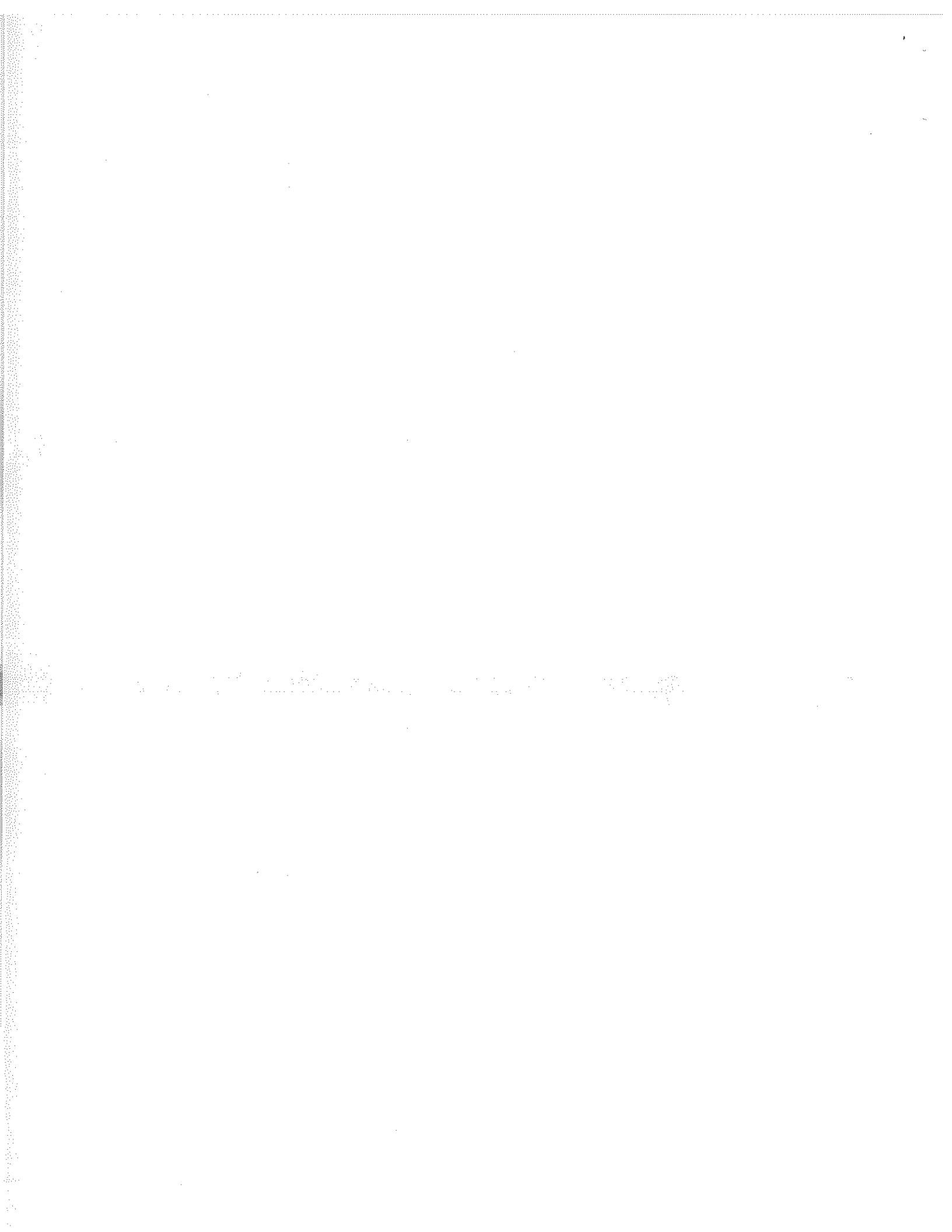
wondered what would happen if Wayne died and she was left behind to look after the children with no income and declining health. Then she imagined what would happen if she herself died. All of a sudden everything seemed hopeless. "I just sat in a corner and cried all day," she remembers. "I felt I couldn't cope any longer."

But Susan knew she had to be strong. She pulled herself together, went to the doctor, and got him to give her an antidepressant drug, which helped restore her determination. And until this past February, when a lapse in her recent good health confined her to bed, she maintained a demanding schedule as mother, wife, nurse and home-school teacher for Chase and Skye. Blake has always been able to go to school, but he has not been able to participate in sports or other activities. "It's frustrating," he says. "I want to do what other kids are doing."

Still, Susan fights for a normal family life and tries to keep everyone's spirits up. "I believe we've been able to cope because we don't let things get us down," she explains. She is also more of a believer in the power of prayer than ever. "I now have a routine. Whenever we have to go to the hospital, I call one of the pastors and ask him to pray. Somehow we get through."

"I've heard people say they live from day to day," says Susan. "In our case, we live from hour to hour, never knowing what might happen next. The only thing I'm sure of is that I will rely on prayer, and love and support from friends and family—for everything. Believe me, it works!" ■





Dwight Foster Public Library

102 E. Milwaukee Ave. Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

2001 Year in Review

The year 2001 was one of significant accomplishments at the library.

The library completed a comprehensive community survey in 2001. Direct feedback from 1,000 randomly selected community and area residents was gathered and analyzed with the help of Dr. Steve Friedman of UW-Whitewater. The library board and staff then implemented changes and made planning decisions based on the feedback and data.

Two important technology resources were made available in 2001 as well. Both Look For't and TIGER moved the library further into the electronic world.

Several years in the planning stages, Look For't was finally unveiled in the Fall of 2001. Look For't allows the library's catalog to be accessible via the World Wide Web. This project was funded with a \$10,000 bequest from Jeanne Karges and a grant from the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System. Now citizens can surf to the library's web site (www.fort.lib.wi.us) and click on the Look For't icon to enter the catalog if they wish to do a real-time search of the library's holdings. Patrons can also place or review their holds, see what items they have checked out and renew their own items. Look For't is available nearly 24/7.

TIGER (Technical Integration to Gain the Enhancement of Resources) was unveiled in the Spring of 2001. It too is a catalog accessible via the world wide web. However, it not only contains our library's holdings but also the holdings of many other cooperating libraries including: the LAUNCH libraries (Watertown, Whitewater, Lake Mills, Johnson Creek, Waterloo, Beaver Dam, Waupun, Mayville, and Iron Ridge) and the WACCOOL libraries (West Bend, Hartford, and Germantown). By electronically linking these separate catalogs, real time access is given directly to patrons to approximately 750,000 holdings. Interlibrary loan efficiency is greatly improved. Patrons who used to have to wait several weeks for an item find that it often arrives now within several days.

Because technology is becoming an increasingly important tool in our world and because it is the library's mission to help people achieve their full potential by being a leading resource for information, education, culture, and recreation, the library continued to offer educational opportunities to learn about technology to the citizens. Beginning Internet and Internet Searching classes were offered for the public in 2001. The free classes were usually booked well in advance. By the end of the year, 154 people had taken one of the library's 42 Internet classes. A larger Beginning Internet class was offered in September when our library made use of the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System's new mobile computer lab.

The library continued on with its tradition of offering a wide variety of programs in 2001. The summer reading program "Reading Road Trip" was a big hit with the 833 children who participated. A second annual adult summer reading program yielded better than expected participation with 43 adults participating, 25 of whom reported reading 10 or more books between June 11th and August 17th. The monthly brown bag lunch programs also proved popular. Other programs included: a Harry Potter movie showing, weekly storytime, a monthly

adult book discussion, a number of Wisconsin Humanities Council speakers, an open house during National Library Week, a Lorine Niedecker poetry conference, the Storylines Midwest public radio book discussion program, a monthly Spanish storytime, an old fashioned tea party, and a teen "mystery at the library" night.

Many donations were received in 2001 including several donations from the Friends of the Library and several from the Whyte-Lewis Charitable Trust. Numerous local businesses and individuals also donated time, talent, materials, and money throughout the year.

The Friends of the Library, a group of individuals and local businesses, exists to provide financial and volunteer support to the Library. This organization makes it possible to provide programs and services that the library would not ordinarily be able to provide. Each and every year they help move the library from ordinary to extraordinary. The Friends offered several clever incentives for membership in 2001, including a discount at the Velveteen Rabbit Bookshop, used book sale premiums and an Oops! card. The Friends of the Library also conducted its second annual trivia contest which saw participation by over 200 people. Projects funded by the Friends in 2001 were: a replacement laptop computer, holiday decorations including outside snowflake lights, and a wide variety of programs.

A cooperative county continuing education program was funded by the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System and the library services boards of Jefferson and Dodge Counties, organized by Dwight Foster Public Library staff, and presented in 2001. Noted fundraiser Boris Frank of Boris Frank Associates presented "All I really need is more money" to an audience of over 100 library staff members and trustees from around Wisconsin.

The library also partnered with a number of community organizations including the Jefferson County Literacy Council, the Hoard Historical Museum, the Dodge-Jefferson Healthier Community Partnership, Opportunities, Inc., and Head Start throughout 2001. These partnerships provided mutual benefit and allowed for important services to be provided to the citizens of our community.

The library's rich collection of materials now numbers nearly 85,000 items including almost every available format. Over 191,000 items were checked out in 2001. This represents an increase of about 3% from 2000. 2001 was the second year of tracking the use of the library's electronic resources. A minimum average of 1,043 hours of electronic use per month are now taking place within the library, which is open 64 hours per week. There were 21,987 individual uses of library electronic resources (not including the card catalog) in 2001. This represents an increase of over 13.5% in usage of in-library electronic resources in only one year. The number of people entering the library increased by nearly 8% from 2000 reaching a count of 123,139 for the year.

The library continues to cope with crowding. A 22-foot range of shelving was purchased and installed in 2001 to accommodate the popular books on tape collection. Nearly every shelf and all available floor space was fully utilized by the end of 2001. In 2001, the library board selected library planner George Lawson of Ames, Iowa to help with a space needs planning process and alternatives analysis to be completed in 2002.

The library's number of registered patrons was 15,022 at the end of the year. This number is larger than the population of Fort Atkinson. The library is a vast resource for our entire county and beyond as it provides direct loans and interlibrary loans to any Wisconsin resident. Here's

a snapshot of the year 2001's statistics.

Posted January 17, 2002

[Home](#) | [Library Info](#) | [Programs](#) | [Events](#) | [Youth Services](#) | [Reading Lists](#)
[Friends](#) | [Ref. Links](#) | [Kids Links](#) | [Literacy Council](#) | [Lorine Niedecker](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) | [NEXT](#) | [HOME](#)

FROM THE REPORTER

Proposition 13 effects felt locally during the 1980s

By Liz Murtaugh/Special to The Reporter

When nearly two-thirds of California's voters passed Proposition 13 in 1978, they were banking on big-time property tax relief.

They got it.

But by the 1980s, they were realizing what it was costing them.

The law capped property taxes at 1 percent of 1975 values. It cut the average property tax bill in half, and stripped nearly \$7 billion from the coffers of local governments statewide.

The proposition also assured that, in most cases, taxes could be increased by no more than 2 percent a year - as long as the property remained under the same ownership.

While thrilled by the slimmer tax bills, most Californians didn't expect the "Tax Limitation Initiative" to lead to drastic cuts in city, county and state programs.

Vacaville residents had their first taste of Proposition 13's ugly side immediately. The local library closed for two weeks following the law's June 6, 1978, passage and reopened only after administrators had laid off staff and scaled back hours.

"The book budget got cut to practically nothing," said Ann Cousineau, Solano County Library's current chief, who was



Walt Graham (seated) and John Thompson headed city staff in the early '80s.

branch manager at the Stockton Library at the time.

"We weren't that flush to begin with," Cousineau continued. "So when this thing passed, libraries suffered a disproportionate share of the impact, because local government certainly didn't want to impact things like public safety."

Parks also took a beating.

Vacaville's park staff was frozen at a dozen full-time employees immediately after Proposition 13 passed. At the same time, pressure mounted to build more parks to suit the recreation needs of the growing city.

"We just basically had to tread water," said Bob Farrington, Vacaville's current landscape architect, who served as the city's parks superintendent from 1976 to 1988.

Litter became a more common sight in local parks. Irrigation repairs were put off. Crews mowed city grass every 10 to 12 days instead of weekly. Graffiti wasn't removed as quickly. Tree trimming moved down on the priority list.

"Morale in the city work force went right down the tubes," Farrington recalled. "People would say, 'Why should I bust my keister when they keep giving me more to do without the resources to do it?'"

Solano County's budget for animal control also shrunk, and local school districts were forced to slim down their payrolls.

In 1982, the county's budget growth screeched to a halt for the first time ever. Supervisors approved an \$80.5 million budget - down \$800,000 from the previous year.

Vacaville and cities throughout the state did what they could to spare police, fire and other essential services from budget cuts, said John Thompson, who was promoted from Vacaville's assistant city manager to city manager in 1984.

Growing cities like Vacaville also started looking for other sources of income. They quickly hit upon sales tax, which could be boosted by enticing more business to the city. Especially favored were companies that sold expensive items, such as car dealerships, and those that sold a lot of goods, such as high-density shopping centers like the outlet stores, built in 1988.

Vacaville's emphasis on sales tax turned out to be lucrative.

In 1978, the city had collected \$1.2 million in sales tax - about \$300,000 less than it received from local property taxes. When Proposition 13 kicked in the following year, Vacaville's property tax income fell to \$892,000, but sales tax revenue was up a bit, at \$1.4 million. By 1985, sales taxes were bringing \$2.4 million to city coffers - \$4 million by the end of the decade.

With so many new homes sold at ever-rising, full-market value throughout the decade, the city's property tax income climbed as well.

To pay for such services as sewers, roads and classrooms, the city also hiked developer fees, a cost passed on to home buyers. In 1978, those fees were adding \$3,224 to the price of a new home. Two years later, that figure had doubled, and by 1990 it had skyrocketed to \$16,448.

Proposition 13 also gave the state the authority to distribute property taxes, which gave Sacramento unprecedented control over the budgets of local governments - a power shift that city, county and school district leaders bemoan to this day.

Nancy L. Paul
117 E. Main Street
Brandon, Wisconsin 53919

February 13, 2002

Joint Committee on Finance
State Senator Brian Burke, Senate Chair
Representative John Gard, Assembly Chair
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

The proposed budget reform will have a devastating effect on Wisconsin's local public libraries. The reduction in shared revenues for municipalities and counties will mean not just reductions in service, but closures. Those closures will be in communities that most need library service, such as my community, Brandon Wisconsin. Brandon's population is 919. There are no bookstores in Brandon, no youth centers, no theatres and no other places to obtain information. Our patrons use the library to read the area newspapers, obtain State tax forms, learn about medical treatment options, find job information, and expand their skills. The Brandon Library, a member of the Winnefox Library System, has been serving its community since 1913. Never in its history has our Library faced the threat of closure. A tiny village such as Brandon will be faced with cutting or eliminating essential services under the proposed State budget. Small communities don't have any non-essential services. All cuts will be in essential services.

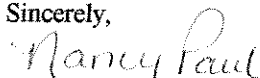
Libraries provide a cornerstone of our American democracy by providing access to information and allowing citizens to be informed about their government and to improve their lives through lifelong education. Libraries are key players in the process of lifelong learning that keeps a State's population up-to-date and skilled. An educated citizenry is essential to attract the kind of businesses Wisconsin wants to attract.

In addition, libraries were way ahead of the Kettl Commission and Governor McCallum's call for cooperative ventures among governing institutions. For over twenty years, libraries have been organized into Library Systems for the purpose of sharing the costs of computers, obtaining and processing materials, and developing a Statewide network to share resources and eliminate redundancies. We are a part of the Winnefox System. At this time of economic downturn, we see our use growing. Each day I hear a sad sorry about jobs lost, but at least these families can use the library to get books for their children and find help and information for themselves.

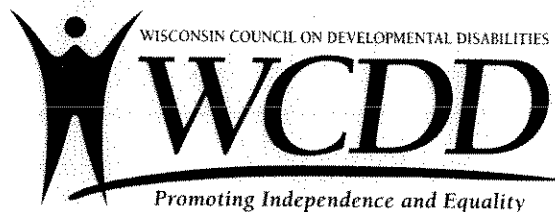
Cuts and outright elimination in library service will take place at a time when demand for services is increasing and when many residents can no longer afford to turn to the private sector to obtain information. Though I sincerely doubt if it is the State legislators' or our Governor's intention, the proposed budget will move Wisconsin library service back to nineteenth century levels. Libraries, a cornerstone of education in our great State, will become collateral damage when shared revenues are lost to small Villages such as Brandon.

I know the budget crisis is real and that you are faced with a most difficult task, but please reconsider a proposal that will likely have such a negative impact of the libraries you've helped to make excellent through support to local communities.

Sincerely,



Nancy Paul
Director, Brandon Public Library



Date: February 13, 2002

To: Representative John Gard, Co-Chair
Senator Brian Burke, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Barbara Lyons, Chairperson

Re: January 2002 Special Session Assembly Bill 1: Preserve Services for People with Disabilities

The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities appreciates the seriousness of the budget imbalance before the Legislature and the need for corrective action. The Council faces a dilemma, however, regarding the Budget Repair Bill proposed by Governor McCallum.

The Council applauds the protection of state funding for critical Medicaid programs and other federal match programs. For many years prior to the 2001-2003 biennial budget, services for families and individuals with disabilities were either frozen or minimally increased. Waiting lists grew at an accelerated rate. These factors caused the Joint Committee on Finance and the Legislature to increase funding for the Community Integration Program (CIP), Community Options Program (COP), Family Support Program, and other services. Unfortunately, the CIP and COP increases were reduced substantially by partial vetoes. The Council opposes further reductions for these needed services and was relieved they were protected in the Budget Repair Bill.

The reductions in shared revenue would also potentially harm people with disabilities. As shared revenues are reduced, counties will be forced to prioritize funding allocations. Counties pour in over \$50 million per year in overmatch for community services for people with developmental disabilities. In particular, counties supply the match for the federal funds for the majority of the CIP 1B placements that support families and people living in the community. This county funding for developmental disabilities services will be at risk of cuts as shared revenue is reduced.

Consolidation and elimination of duplication at all levels of government can be worthwhile goals. The implementation of those goals must be carefully planned so that services to vulnerable people dependent upon government services are not disrupted. For example, the thoughtful closing of one or more of the State Centers for the Developmentally Disabled may result in substantial cost savings that could be used to fund community services. Reducing reliance on other institutional care may also produce savings.

The fiscal environment of the state has changed since the 2001-2003 biennial budget was signed into law. The service needs of families and people with developmental disabilities have not changed. The general public supports funding services for vulnerable people. The Council urges the Joint Finance Committee to explore options for remedying the budget imbalance without jeopardizing either state or local funded services for people with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ondrejka, Executive Director, at the contact information below.

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups**Testimony****of Tom Frazier****Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups****before****The Joint Committee on Finance****February 13, 2002**

In the last state budget CWAG had three priority issues: prescription drug costs for seniors (SeniorCare), long-term care (COP, CIP, Family Care) and additional funding to provide help for the victims of elder abuse. The legislature, especially the Joint Finance Committee, responded favorably to all three priorities. I would point out that we recommended specific funding sources for all three issues and that our recommendations were accepted by the Joint Committee on Finance and the legislature.

With this background, obviously we are pleased that the Governor did not propose cutting any of these programs to help solve the \$1.1 billion deficit problem. We have expressed that appreciation on numerous occasions. As you recall, SeniorCare was a top priority of almost every legislator and we believe that such priorities should be maintained despite the serious budget deficit facing the state. And, we do not believe it makes sense, especially in tight budget times, to reduce funding for home and community-based long-term care programs. We know that *at least* an equal amount of state funding will be spent on institutional care if funding for home care is cut. Also, any further imbalance in funding for institutional care and home care may result in frustration and litigation under the U. S. Supreme Court *Olmstead vs. L. C.* decision.

While CWAG continues to be grateful to the Governor for sparing these programs from budget cuts, we have not taken a position on the proposal to cut and then eliminate

shared revenue payments to local governments. We are proceeding the way we always proceed – by educating ourselves on the impact of the proposed cuts on programs and services for older persons. While we do not have a lot of data to date, we are hearing that local programs and services for seniors will be affected in two ways. First, some programs, especially senior centers, receive direct assistance from shared revenue payments. Second, the reduction and elimination of shared revenues will have an indirect impact on services to the elderly by requiring corresponding reductions in county levy allocations.

For example, in Portage County, aging programs receive \$400,000 in county levy support (22% of their budget). Representatives of the Portage County Department on Aging have been told to expect an immediate cut of \$60,000 and proposed levy limits would further erode county funding available for aging programs. The Department on Aging in Milwaukee County expects a cut of 16.8% (approximately \$500,000). That corresponds to the overall proposed cut in Milwaukee County's discretionary tax revenue. Specifically, this would translate into cuts in senior centers, adult day care transportation, Interfaith outreach and some home delivered meals.

We have some appreciation of how difficult your job is to fix the deficit and we will work with you to develop an equitable and, we hope, a balanced approach. We urge you to consider the revenue side of the equation as well as the expense side. Large tax cuts in recent years have contributed to the problem and should now be part of the solution. For example, a further increase in cigarette taxes would be supported by many organizations and at least some sales tax exemptions should be considered.

While we do not yet have a specific proposal for the whole problem, we will work with you to develop a solution that is fair and in the Wisconsin tradition of protecting its most vulnerable people.



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 13, 2002

To: Rep. John Gard and Sen. Brian Burke, Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Finance

From: Jason Kay, Government Affairs, AARP Wisconsin

Re: Special Session AB-1/Budget Adjustment

AARP would like to suggest three guidelines for your Joint Committee as you take on the task of fixing the state budget.

First, there should be priorities. An across-the-board cut would be unwise and counterproductive. *In fact, an across-the-board cut to state funding of county human services programs could (when including the federal match) hurt those programs far more than the elimination of shared revenue.* The Department of Administration estimates that such an across-the-board cut would cost counties \$228 million, compared to \$150 million through the loss of shared revenue.

Second, one of those priorities should be Wisconsin's health and long-term care – especially the health of seniors, of children, and of working families. We commend Governor McCallum for making health care a priority in his budget proposal.

Maintaining access to health care for these groups is essential for three reasons:

- The human cost of untreated illness and families broken by overwhelming medical bills.
- Since MA and BadgerCare bring a federal match, every dollar in GPR cut from these programs means fewer federal dollars coming into Wisconsin.
- There is a financial as well as a human component to untreated illness. More emergency room visits mean greater MA expenditures or unpaid medical bills that will drive up health costs for the private sector. For example, a study in New Hampshire showed that caps on Medicaid prescription benefits actually cost the state more due to increased institutionalization.

Third, SeniorCare and the Community Options Program are two specific health care programs that should not be touched.

Wisconsin seniors have been waiting far too long already for a prescription drug program. Now that SeniorCare is scheduled to begin in September, a reduction or delay in the program would be a bitter disappointment. SeniorCare will keep Wisconsin seniors healthier and reduce pressure on the state budget in the long run. Seniors who are not skipping or stretching their medicine are less likely to end up in nursing homes. In addition, SeniorCare was passed with its own source of funding; those funds should not be raided for other purposes.

The Community Options Program helps frail seniors and disabled persons choose to live in their own homes. This is the kind of long-term care that our members overwhelmingly prefer. Moreover, COP costs about \$30 per day less than nursing home care, and the difference is bigger for the elderly only. AARP thanks the members of this committee for their strong support of COP in the past. We urge you to continue that support.

AARP has not endorsed the complete elimination of shared revenue. That proposal raises serious concerns that should be addressed. In addition, we urge lawmakers and Governor McCallum not to completely rule out potential sources of new revenue along with budget cuts. For example, special interest tax exemptions that may shift burdens to other taxpayers deserve close scrutiny.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Joint Committee on Finance

Members of the committee:

My name is Anthony Olsen and I'm a sophomore student and Shared Governance Director at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County in Wausau. I'm here today to represent UW students like myself who are deeply concerned about how the University system will fare as you attempt to readjust our current unbalanced budget.

We realize the severity of the situation and the importance of having a balanced budget, but we also see the future of our economy and the success of our great state as being directly related to the states investment in our University of Wisconsin System and ensuring equal access to higher education. While it's important to balance the budget, it's equally important not to balance it on the backs of students through increased tuition or by cutting other funding that's vital for the guaranteed quality of a University of Wisconsin education.

Many people are priced out of an education every year with the costs of tuition surpassing the rate of inflation, not to mention the other costs associated such as textbooks, living expenses, etc. that are constantly rising as well. It is imperative that we set aside funding for our states most prized agency and consider the consequences down the road by not doing so.

Again, I strongly urge you to consider the many benefits associated with the investment into our University System as you decide how to best alleviate our current economic situation. An investment in education today is an investment in the economy of tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Anthony J. Olsen
UW-Marathon County Student Association – Shared Governance Director
Legislative Coordinator – Student Governance Council (SGC)
518 S. 7th Ave. Wausau, WI. 54401-5396
anjolse6@uwc.edu



Wisconsin Personal Services Alternatives, Inc.

DATE: February 13, 2002

TO: Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Penny Schinktgen
WPSA President

RE: **SUPPORT OF ZERO CUTS TO MEDICAID**

On behalf of Wisconsin Personal Service Association (WPSA), which represents personal care providers around the state, I would like to express our support of Governor McCallum's Budget Reform bill, specifically because the Governor's Budget Reform bill does not make any cuts to Medical Assistance rates. In a program that already has access issues, it was key for the Governor to hold this important program harmless.

We would like to respectfully request supporting the Governor by not cutting Medical Assistance as the budget process moves forward. Cutting Medical Assistance has many negative affects. First, the state would actually loose money from the federal government if it were to cut any of Wisconsin's share of the program. For every dollar Wisconsin puts into the MA program, the federal government contributes \$1.50. That is a 60% loss for MA in addition to the cuts that are made by the state. Congress is currently looking at increasing its dollars to MA programs to ensure access for recipients. Cutting the program in Wisconsin would be moving in the wrong direction.

Secondly, Wisconsin MA recipients already face problems to access in many areas of service because current rates are too low. If the rates were cut any further, this access problem would only increase; leaving this state's most vulnerable without care. This is simply a problem that Wisconsin should not make worse. Any cuts in MA would inevitably create a further problem for patients.

Third, with the recession that is currently facing our nation, it is imperative to have a strong MA system. As more and more people are out of work, the need for MA services will increase. If anything, the dollars available for MA should be increased to accommodate the more and more people that will be eligible for services.

Finally, businesses and employers will see the need to increase premiums or not offer health insurance because some providers will have to shift costs to accommodate for MA not paying for seeing patients. Ultimately, everyone will pay for the cuts in the MA program.

Thank you in advance for your support on protecting the state's program that can protect Wisconsin's most vulnerable residents. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Katie Boyce at 608.255.0566.

Wisconsin

SURVIVAL COALITION

16 North Carroll, Suite 400, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 267-0214 Voice & TTY ■ (608) 267-0368 FAX

Date: February 13, 2002
To: Members, Wisconsin Senate & Assembly
From: Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations
Subject: Our response to the Governor's Budget Reform Bill

In recent weeks, it has been (inaccurately) reported that disability organizations are in full support of Governor McCallum's Budget Reform bill. While we appreciate the Governor's exclusion of several disability programs from his proposed budget cuts, we nevertheless feel compelled to express our concern regarding the impact of other features of the proposal on those very same programs.

The Governor proposed no changes in the funding increases planned for the Community Options Program (COP), the Community Integration Program (CIP), the Birth to Three Program, the Family Support Program and DVR. He also made only minimal modifications to Medicaid. However, the proposed elimination of shared revenues serves to undermine essential funding sources for those same programs. Most of the services that people with disabilities receive in Wisconsin are delivered or overseen by county government. Consequently the state-county relationship and the ongoing flow of state funds to the counties is crucial to ensuring the capacity of counties to provide the services people need. With the decline in Community Aids in recent years, and the fact that COP and CIP funding increases have not kept pace with the demographic growth in the eligible population for these services, county funds have been increasingly spread thin. The loss of shared revenues will greatly exacerbate this situation, and will clearly impact people with disabilities.

County officials from all over the state have indicated to us that they will be forced to prioritize those expenditures which are legally required (e.g., the required 9.89% county match to Community Aids); and will have no alternative to cutting "non-required" expenditures, such as "county overmatch" to Community Aids, and the funds counties use to supply needed supplements to the reimbursement rates of programs like CIP 1B, CIP II, and COP Waiver. Also, counties will have less funds to cover their share of the cost of Medicaid Waiver services to individuals for whom the state is not providing any funds. In fact, several counties have indicated that the cuts in disability services resulting from the loss of shared revenues will likely be larger than the projected new funding they will receive in the form of new COP and CIP slots.

As the Kettl Commission recommended, it may be time for Wisconsin to restructure the state-county relationship. But if that is the case, it should be done with great care and forethought,

and the changes should be implemented in such a way that basic services will not be interrupted and local governments will be able to stay fiscally viable. Also, representatives of people with disabilities and other populations who rely on county-administered services should be at the table. Further, if counties are to experience a reduction in the level of state funding they receive, then such a step must be accompanied by a transfer of some of the county's responsibilities to the state, and/or a clear opportunity for counties to replace the lost state revenue with new local revenue.

Finally, several alternatives to eliminating shared revenues should also be considered:

- possible changes in Wisconsin's tax structure
- increased fees for public services (especially fees which will not have a disproportionate impact on low-income citizens)
- ways to reconfigure the Transportation Fund

Whichever options the state agrees on, it is important to remember that in a time of economic downturn, it is particularly important that the government safety net for people with disabilities be kept intact, and if possible, even strengthened. We look forward to working with the governor and the legislature to close the state's budget gap without eroding basic services that people with disabilities rely on.

Co-chairs, Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations:

Michael Blumenfeld
UCP-Wisconsin
16 North Carroll, Ste. 800
Madison, WI 53703
608-257-1888
blumk@aol.com

Lynn Breedlove
Wisconsin Coalition for
Advocacy
16 North Carroll, Ste. 400
Madison, WI 53703
608-267-0214
lynnb@w-c-a.org

Jennifer Ondrejka
Wisconsin Council on
Developmental Disabilities
600 Williamson Street
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-7826
OndreJM@dhfs.state.wi.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2002
TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FROM: TODD VAN FOSSEN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SUBJ: STATE BUDGET REFORM BILL

Meriter Health Services, a community health care provider based in Madison, **fully supports Governor Scott McCallum's proposal to preserve Medicaid and BadgerCare funding** in the current State Budget Reform process. This bold and courageous decision will help ensure that Wisconsin's neediest citizens have continued access to the high-quality, cost-effective health care they deserve.

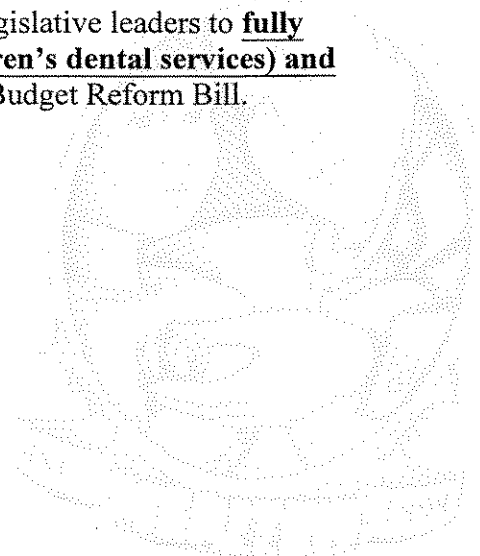
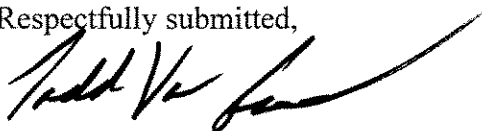
We sincerely hope that the Joint Finance Committee and legislative leaders will also support the Governor's decision and **fully implement his Medicaid and BadgerCare funding preservation proposals** in their version of the Budget Reform Bill.

Our one concern, however, is continued Medicaid funding for dental services. We have learned of a potential legislative proposal to eliminate Medicaid funding for most adult dental services, and to transfer this funding to children's MA dental programs.

While we fully support efforts to increase dental access for children through MA, we would not like to see this occur at the expense of adults, whose dental access needs are equally pressing and severe. At our Max W. Pohle community dental clinic at Meriter Hospital, we see more than 5,000 patients each year, 77% of whom are on Medical Assistance. Of this figure, more than two-thirds of patients are adult MA. Without funding for their care, our clinic would face a disastrous situation, and we would no doubt see many more adults seeking Emergency Room care for dental crises.

In summary, we urge the Joint Finance Committee and legislative leaders to **fully preserve Medicaid funding (including adult and children's dental services) and BadgerCare** as you make very difficult decisions in the Budget Reform Bill.

Respectfully submitted,





WISCONSIN
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION

Special Session Assembly Bill 1 Joint Committee on Finance Testimony
Mari Freiberg, Associate Director
February 13, 2002

Special Session Assembly Bill 1 eliminates \$3 million in base funding for the Department of Health and Family Services State Community Health Center Grant Program. This annual investment supports a primary care network of 14 federally funded Community Health Centers that care for 100,000 residents.

Wisconsin's community, migrant and homeless health centers are the backbone of the health care safety net in Wisconsin. Health centers in small towns throughout the state provide primary care to thousands of rural residents including farm families, the Amish, and migrant and seasonal farm workers. Nearly one in four health center patients statewide is uninsured. In urban communities 35% of health center patients are African American, Hispanic/Latino and Asian. Last year centers cared for 6,938 homeless patients.

We commend Governor McCallum for sparing health programs such as Medicaid and BadgerCare. That's important. However, Medicaid and BadgerCare patients have insurance. Thousands do not and Wisconsin's uninsured numbers are rising. Over 95,000 Wisconsinites lost their jobs in the last ten months. Most lost their ability to pay for health insurance. Eliminating the State Health Center Grant Program hits at the heart of our ability to expand care for these populations.

There have been a number of misconceptions about this program and I'd like to address them.

First, Wisconsin health centers are eligible to compete for funding on the federal level. The federal pot of money is nationwide. There is NO Wisconsin specific set-aside to draw down for these services. There is NO guarantee that Wisconsin will be able to capture these additional federal resources because our health centers are competing with health centers from across the nation. The nature of the federal program focuses on health care access and health status and disparities issues. The worse off state populations live, the better states in capturing this limited pot of federal resources. Obviously, states with high poverty, bad Medicaid coverage and high uninsured numbers have a much easier time competing for the federal funds.

We all know however that there are populations in need of primary health care services throughout Wisconsin. The fact that we have comparatively good services means that the usual answers don't work and we need to be more creative in finding solutions. The Health Center Grant Program is one of those creative and effective solutions.

Second, federal dollars can be used for new sites or new services only. It cannot be used to support existing programs. The state funds are critical to support and expand existing programs like prenatal care, oral health services and others. Although the elimination of the program will not close health center doors, services will be reduced and thousands will find it more difficult to receive the medical and dental care they need.

Third, the network of 14 health centers receive on average 12.7% of their funding through federal grants. It has been reported that they receive a majority of their funds from the federal government and that is untrue.

Since inception of the State Health Center Grant Program in 1999, the Wisconsin health center network has succeeded in capturing an additional \$2.2 million from the federal government. There are two new federally funded health centers since 1999. A number of centers have opened new sites and expanded services – in large part, due to the state investment in their services that allows them to improve current programs. They continue to have an unprecedented opportunity to leverage more federal resources to care for Wisconsin's residents in need – those in rural and urban areas and state funds only enhance these efforts to bring in over \$10 million in federal dollars annually.

And finally, it is true that many patients who are cared for at out state's 14 health centers will continue to receive services. Unfortunately, they will likely get their primary care in the state's hospital emergency rooms – an extremely costly and inappropriate alternative. As you well know, inappropriate emergency room usage is a huge problem for our hospitals. Health centers have cared for thousands of these patients and it would be a shame to reduce the state commitment to a person's ability to receive cost-effective primary care in an appropriate setting.

I urge you to reinstate the \$3 million state commitment to the State Community Health Center Grant Program.



WISCONSIN
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin's Community Health Centers

Wisconsin's 14 federally-funded Community Health Centers provide primary health care services (i.e., medical, dental, and mental health care) to over 100,000 men, women and children in our state annually. They provide care to all, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Wisconsin's Health Centers make up the core of health care providers who serve populations in need, whether they are geographically, linguistically, culturally or financially isolated from traditional health care services.

Services

All federally-funded Community Health Centers provide comprehensive primary health care for adults, children and families. Most services are provided on-site. All maintain evening and/or weekend hours, many provide care at multiple sites, use mobile clinics to reach rural patients and employ multilingual staff.

Government structure

Health Centers are private corporations created through the initiative of local citizens interested in bringing health care to their areas. They are governed by consumer-majority boards of directors, and thus represent the communities they serve.

Funding

Federally-funded Community Health Centers receive operating grants under Section 330 of the U.S. Public Health Service Act. Health Centers are required to bill third party payers for patients who have coverage. This helps offset the cost of the organization's operations, allowing direct federal grant dollars to cover care for the uninsured.

State Funding

The 1999-2000 State Budget contained \$5.5 million for federally funded primary health care programs. The 2001-2002 State Budget included \$6 million of base funding for the State Community Health Center Grant Program. Three million dollars already distributed. Three million dollars is proposed to be cut.

Economic Returns

While external resources provide Health Centers with funding that is crucial to their survival, the communities in which Health Centers operate receive significant economic returns as well. Thus, in addition to their role in providing needed health care to the medically underserved, Health Centers also serve as important economic engines within their neighborhoods and communities.

About State Community Health Center Grant Program Funding

Supplemental state funding has helped Health Centers:

- Increase patients by 23.6%;
- Increase care for uninsured by 24.3%;
- Care for 10.3% more patients with income under 100% of the federal poverty level; and
- Provide dental care to 2,844 more patients.

Amount each Wisconsin Health Center has received over the last three years:

Beloit Community Health Center.....	\$560,315
Bridge Community Health Clinic, Wausau.....	\$313,640
Family Health Medical & Dental/ <i>La Clinica</i> , Wautoma.....	\$561,640
Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.....	\$1,406,317
Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee.....	\$982,786
Kenosha Community Health Center.....	\$527,520
Lake Superior Community Health Center, Superior.....	\$132,810
Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.....	\$1,130,171
N.E.W. Community Health Clinic, Green Bay.....	\$167,486
North Woods Community Health Center, Minong/Hayward.....	\$356,802
Northern Health Centers, Inc., Lakewood.....	\$296,078
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, Cashton.....	\$586,763
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee.....	\$1,315,522
Westside Healthcare Association, Milwaukee.....	\$162,780

The Success of Supplemental State Funding

The State Community Health Center Grant Program made it possible to hire dentists, bilingual physicians and a bilingual nursing assistant, a women's health physician assistant, two OB nurse case managers, two nurse practitioners, and a health educator.

This funding added more dental services, exam rooms, a licensed pharmacy, a mail order pharmacy, osteoporosis screening, a smoking cessation program, case management services, stress testing for heart disease, programs for pregnant women, a 24-hour answering service for Spanish speaking patients, expanded clinic hours, and translations services. Programs were established for diabetes health care and registry, cardiovascular services, community care, and sexually transmitted disease prevention and services.

Quick Facts About Community Health Centers

- Wisconsin Health Centers serve over 100,000 men, women and children each year.
- Twenty-three percent of Health Center patients are uninsured.
Supplemental state funding helps to expand their ability to provide care to more people.
- Health Centers offer on-site enrollment opportunities for Medicaid and BadgerCare.
State funding supports a one-stop shopping model for health services and benefits.
- Health Centers are a \$60 million industry in Wisconsin.
- Health Centers promote economic development in distressed neighborhoods and communities at an estimated level of over \$122 million per year in total economic output.
- Nineteen Health Center sites serve rural Wisconsin.
- Over 35% of Health Center patients are members of minority groups.
- Health Centers provide primary care in 36 counties.
- Health Centers employ bilingual providers, reducing cultural and linguistic barriers.
- Health Centers have a published sliding fee scale, reducing financial barriers.

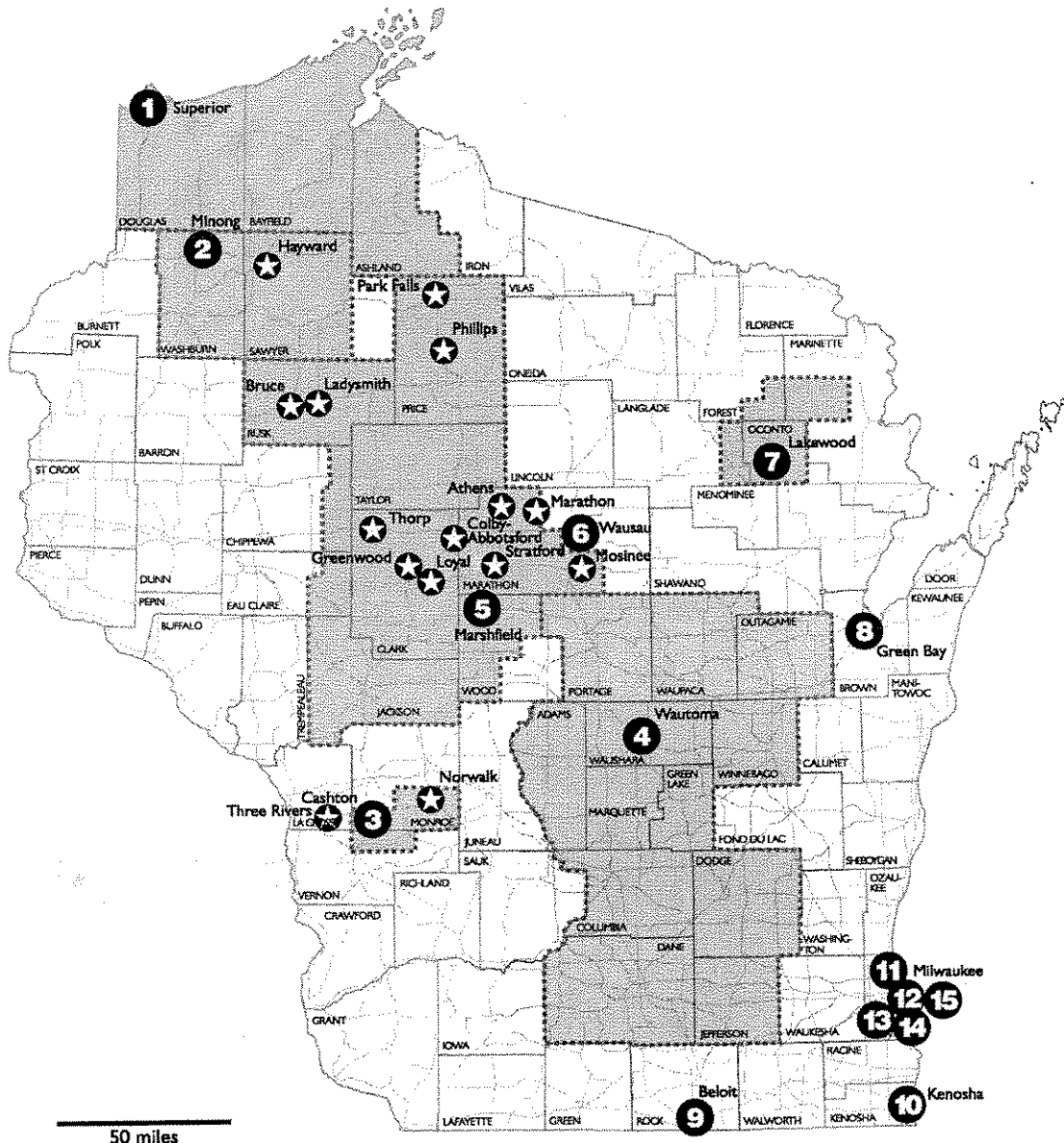
In 2000, Health Centers Cared For:

- 14,410 patients needing interpretive, sign language and bilingual services
- 10,315 people over the age of 65
- 6,938 homeless patients
- 4,519 infants
- 14,915 people needing dental care

Patient Visits to Community Health Centers Included:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ 45,725 - Behavioral health services | ■ 18,925 - Diabetes |
| ■ 35,918 - Dental | ■ 10,135 - Breast and cervical cancer exams |
| ■ 24,181 - Child health exams | ■ 8,512 - Immunizations |
| ■ 20,480 - Heart disease and hypertension | ■ 5,061 - Asthma |

Wisconsin's Health Centers



★ Satellite Health Centers

■ Health Center Service Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Lake Superior Community Health Center, Superior | 8 N.E.W. Community Clinic, Green Bay |
| 2 NorthWoods Community Health Centers, Minong | 9 Beloit Area Community Health Center, Beloit |
| 3 Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, Cashton | 10 Kenosha Community Health Center, Kenosha |
| 4 Family Health Medical and Dental Center/La Clinica de los Campesinos, Inc., Wautoma | 11 Health Care for the Homeless of Milwaukee, Milwaukee |
| 5 Family Health Center of Marshfield, Marshfield | 12 Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., Milwaukee |
| 6 Bridge Community Health Clinic, Wausau | 13 Johnston Community Health Center, Milwaukee |
| 7 Northern Health Centers, Inc., Lakewood | 14 Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee |
| | 15 Westside Community Health Center, Milwaukee |

February 13, 2002

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to address you this morning. My name is Joe Greco. I am the Village President of Menomonee Falls...Past President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the co founder of the Southeastern Municipal Executives, a group representing 57 mayors and village president of Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee and Washington Counties.

I am here this morning to do three things:

- Do prove to you that municipal government is not "Big Spenders"
- To prove to you we are not "whiners"
- To clarify our position in order to take a positive step forward in solving the \$1.1 billion deficit.

In the packet that we have distributed you will find a myriad of information:

- 1) A Pie Chart prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau showing where the State Tax Dollar Goes...
- 2) A chart from 1995 show the history of a "tax shift"
- 3) A bar graph indicating the before and after of the Governor McCallum's Budget Reform Bill
- 4) The Governor has stated that the elimination of Shared Revenue will only amount to 4%. Please review the report that was used. The Village of Menomonee Falls is shown to have a \$34.5 million dollar budget.....our budget is \$26.5 million.
- 5) An article from the Milwaukee Journal indicating that "it was news to the Governor's aids the power plant funds were also eliminated." If they didn't know that what else don't they know. VK Development who has done wonderful things in the Village of Pleasant Prairie has been notified that they are halting all future development because of the proposed loss of Shared Revenue. He has been in contact with the Governor's office stating his concerns.
- 6) Hearing the Governor's speech that fatal evening, everyone was led to believe that the proposal called for the loss the shared revenue were be over a 3 year period. It was Wednesday morning that I was informed that is not true and that the bill calls for a \$39.20 per capita reduction this year of 2002. Yes, this year. In September we received notification of our shared revenue. We built our budgets.....held our public hearings....set our tax rates....and now the state is reneging on the sending us our money. We question the legality of this proposal if this bill should pass as proposed will engage legal council to question the legality of such a move.
- 7) It is perceived that this affects the larger cities such a Milwaukee.....West Allis.... Etc. Look at Waupun.
- 8) It has been said that we have not demonstrated that we have regional cooperation with neighboring communities. Please review the chart that was built in our meetings with then Senator Margaret Farrow.
- 9) Please review the areas that we identified with the Senator for further discussion.
- 10) We have been asked about the unfunded mandates that we have complained about for years.....The list has grown since then.

11) We continue to lose revenue to special interest groups. We are confronted this moment of losing revenue from restaurant equipment.

We caution the legislature in what they wish for, as we at the local level are where it all begins. There are 3 levels of municipalities that are affected.....The matured grown out communities.....The suburban edge communities that are still growing.....And the rural communities.....What this proposal will have a devastating affect on the economic development of the entire state. Communities such as the Town of Finley in Juneau County who for every dollar they send to Madison , receives \$4.45 cents in return....Waupun receives \$.93....you have seen the impact on the City of Waupun.... I don't even want to ask what will happen to Finley.....I don't even know where it is.....Good bye.... Rural Wisconsin.

Lastly, we have distributed a list that shows the impact on the communities that the Joint Finance Committee members represent.....I would ask that you talk to your mayors and village presidents and ask them how they will address their loss.

We made two attempts to meet with the Governor and that never came about....We were not invited to the north woods...but we are always willing to come to the table and work with the legislature to address the problem. But, we need to at the table.

Thank you again....



202 State Street
Suite 300
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2215

608/267-2380
800/991-5502
Fax: 608/267-0645

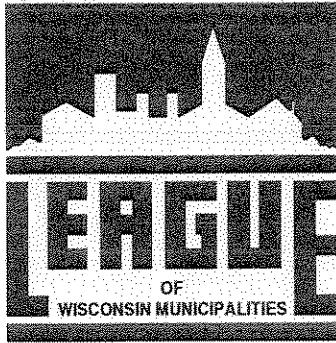
E-mail: league@lwm-info.org
www.lwm-info.org

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
From: Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Date: February 13, 2002
Re: **Opposition to Special Session AB 1, the Governor's Budget Repair Bill**

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities opposes the Governor's proposal to reduce shared revenue payments to towns, villages, cities and counties this year and completely eliminate the program in 2004. Attached is a resolution adopted by the League's Board of Directors earlier this month expressing the Board's strong opposition to the Governor's plan for solving the budget shortfall.

We urge this Committee to craft a budget repair bill that does not place most of the responsibility for remedying the state's \$1.1 billion deficit on the backs of local governments. As the Committee prepares its version of the budget repair bill, we ask it to bear in mind the following points:

1. **The Governor's proposal to cut shared revenue payments in 2002 is unacceptable.** The state should stand by its shared revenue funding commitment for 2002. Municipalities relied on that commitment when they prepared and adopted their 2002 budgets and tax levies.
2. **Any future cuts or modifications to shared revenue should be accomplished gradually and only after consultation with municipal officials.** This will provide municipalities an opportunity to participate in reforming shared revenue and time to adjust to any new financial realities.
3. **Any future cuts or modifications to shared revenue should be accomplished only in conjunction with giving municipalities additional local revenue options.** Municipalities should have other options for raising revenue besides the property tax.
4. **The Expenditure Restraint Program should be retained.** The financial incentives offered by this program have proven successful in keeping municipal spending down.
5. **The League supports the governor's goal of reducing Wisconsin's many overlapping local governments.** The Legislature should start by reexamining the role of town government in the 21st Century. Reducing the number of town governments would greatly diminish the problem of duplicative services being provided within the same region by multiple units of government.



202 State Street
Suite 300
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2215

608/267-2380
800/991-5502
Fax: 608/267-0645

E-mail: league@lwm-info.org
www.lwm-info.org

Resolution Opposing Governor McCallum's Proposal to Eliminate the Shared Revenue Program

WHEREAS, Governor McCallum has proposed an immediate cut of \$350 million in the Shared Revenue Program for cities, villages, towns, and counties in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Governor McCallum has proposed the complete elimination of the Shared Revenue Program in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Governor McCallum described this proposal in his budget speech as "...a 4 percent reduction to local government budgets in calendar year 2002."; and

WHEREAS, in reality the \$350 million cut in the Shared Revenue Program will result in much more than a 4% reduction to most municipalities' general fund budgets in 2002; and

WHEREAS, under the Governor's proposal, over 500 local governments would have all of their shared revenue payments eliminated in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the Shared Revenue Program would have a devastating impact on Wisconsin municipalities, particular those with low tax base and would force huge cuts in essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal provides no alternative revenue sources for municipalities and instead calls for the creation of yet another commission to study and make recommendations on how local governments operate and are funded.

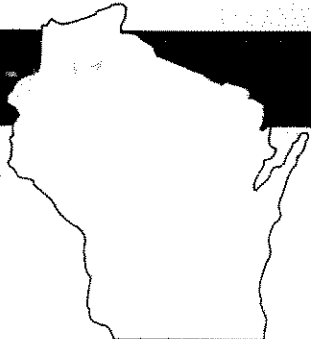
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities strongly opposes Governor McCallum's proposal for slashing and eliminating the Shared Revenue Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the League and each member of the League's Board of Directors stands ready and willing to meet with the Governor to discuss how local governments can help the state balance its \$1.1 billion deficit in a way that does not place most of the responsibility for remedying the shortfall on the backs of municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Scott McCallum, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala and Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen.

WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF CITIES

14 W. MIFFLIN STREET #206 • MADISON, WI 53703-2576
(608) 257-5881 FAX 257-5882 www.wiscities.org • EMAIL: wiscall@inxpress.net



Appleton
Ashland
Baraboo
Beaver Dam
Beloit
Cudahy
De Pere
Eau Claire
Fond du Lac
Green Bay
Greenfield
Kaukauna
Kenosha
La Crosse
Madison
Manitowoc
Marinette
Marshfield
Menasha
Merrill
Milwaukee
Monroe
Neenah
Oak Creek
Oshkosh
Racine
Sheboygan
Stevens Point
Superior
Two Rivers
Watertown
Waukesha
Wausau
Wauwatosa
West Allis
West Bend
Whitewater
Wisconsin Rapids

TO: Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Edward J. Huck

RE: Deficit Repair Legislation, Governor's point of View

The Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, an organization of 38 cities, representing tens of thousands of families across Wisconsin, is opposed to Governor McCallum's deficit repair legislation.

In its stead we are asking for a summit of legislative leadership to work with a delegation from cities, villages, counties and towns to forge legislation to eliminate the fiscal deficit and dig deeply into eliminating the structural deficit.

We, of course, are concerned about solutions that would allow the Governor to inflict his onerous opinions of shared revenue via veto. That is, legislative language should refer to reductions from act 16 instead of new appropriation amounts. In essence, however, we are seeking a bipartisan agreement backed by a pledge to override any veto.

We are not dismissing any proposals currently before us except the Governors'. But we cannot agree to any proposal unless it includes greater cuts from the state agencies and a fairer way of distributing the pain than the Governor's proposal.

Finally, reform of local government financing and structure is critical to this discussion. We have little interest in another commission. There are ideas that we have NOW that should be considered. Understand that we live within a structure designed by state laws and policies. The governor criticizes the amount of local government, but does not offer changes in annexation policies that have in fact created the mess. He does not offer to eliminate any local governments and asked us to consolidate services without even asking about the state barriers to change that state government has thrown in our path.

The new economy, we all laud, requires a plan and a vision for our future. It demands electrical generation; an eclectic, multi-racial society housed within cities. It begs for amenities supplied by cities. It must have an education plan that is integrated into an economic revitalization plan.

Page 2. Testimony before the Joint Committee on Finance.

If it is jobs, higher incomes and low unemployment we seek, strong local governments are the answer. If it is opportunity for all to be part of the states economic potential, then all areas of the state must be able to compete. If it is stability that minimizes extremes, then oppose the radical.

“States have a major role to play in assuring that local governments have the legal, financial, and administrative capability and the political incentive to enhance the economic vitality of the sub-regions of the state, especially those in distress.” (Leadership for Dynamic State Economies, Committee for Economic Development)

The Wisconsin Alliance of Cities stands ready to enter into a dialogue with Legislative Leaders. Just ask.