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Details: Public Hearing – February 21, 2008

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

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

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Education (SC-Ed)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

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

9113

Vote Record Committee on Education

Date: 3/6/08

Moved by: Kreitlow Seconded by: Hansen

AB _____ SB 486 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator John Lehman, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jon Erpenbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Pat Kreitlow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Luther Olsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Mary Lazich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 3 _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed





WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

TO: State Senator John Lehman, Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kim Wadas, Associate Director

DATE: February 21, 2008

RE: Senate Bill 486, Educator Licensure in Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Schools

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) opposes Senate Bill 486, which would place new licensure requirements on educators working for Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) schools. This requirement is unnecessary as Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, as well as other MPCP schools, must already maintain high educator standards, which include state licensure, in order to obtain and retain accreditation.

Under Wisconsin Statutes s.119.23(2)(a)7, a private school participating in the MPCP must attain accreditation from a state-recognized accrediting institution. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is listed as an accrediting institution. In addition to adhering to its own accreditation standards, the Archdiocese also complies with teacher standards as required by the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA), another approved accrediting agency.

The Archdiocese, in its school accreditation standards, requires that "All teachers are state-certified or pursuing an Archdiocese approved plan of study on an approved timeline, monitored by the principal annually." This plan of study should include a plan for certification, if applicable, that is kept on record in the employee's personnel file.

Under WRISA, instructional personnel must have "earned a bachelor's degree that includes 12 semester hours of credit in teacher education as part of or in addition to the degree, or is actively working toward meeting this requirement in three years."

Instructional personnel in a secondary institution must also possess "a college major (at least 24 semester hours) or certificate in their assigned field for the major portion of the school day." Professional personnel that meet the qualifications for certification or licensing by the state are considered in compliance with this quality benchmark.

By utilizing this standard, accrediting agencies maintain a high level of competency among educators. However, this standard also allows our Catholic schools to utilize second career teacher programs such as the Urban Education Fellows Program through Alverno and Mount

Mary Colleges. Individuals enrolled in this program seek a second career as teachers and are permitted to teach in an urban school setting while participating in a three-year graduate degree program that will provide them with state certification upon completion. The individuals who participate in this program for the Archdiocese are all required to have bachelor's degrees.

While we recognize the need to maintain excellent educators in our MPCP schools, the WCC asks that you continue to allow benchmarks to be maintained through the accrediting agencies recognized in s.119.23(2)(a)7.

The WCC thanks you for the opportunity to testify on this proposal and urges you to oppose SB 486.



LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Senate Committee on Education
Testimony of Senator Lena C. Taylor
SB 486 – Quality Teachers for Every Student Act
February 21, 2008**

Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing Senate Bill 486. To say that lines are clearly drawn, where most legislators, educators, parents and community stakeholders are on issues, of the Milwaukee Parental Choice program, is probably an understatement.

Often accused of polarizing views and positions, many find it difficult to work with one another regarding the implementation, oversight, and accountability of the program. Inspire of these divisions, Milwaukee children and families have benefited most, when we as legislators, have put partisan politics and personal agendas aside, and come together for the best interest of the child.

The *Quality Teachers for Every Student Act* (SB 486) is an opportunity for us to do just that. Many of us are parents, grandparents, or guardians. Most of us have children that we care deeply about and want the very best for. We will stop at nothing to insure that they are well fed, well clothed, and well loved.

Understanding that their success in life is often tied to their early educational preparation, we work to get them in the best day cares, best schools, and assigned to the best teachers. In short, we want them to get the best education they possibly can.

To that end, how do we as parents, legislators, and individuals responsible for not only growing Wisconsin, but positioning our residents to be globally competitive, find it acceptable to have unlicensed, undereducated, and unprepared individuals teaching our children. As many of the state's adult residents, often the casualty of downsizing, plant closings, and outsourcing, work to re-tool, re-educate, and re-position themselves to compete in an ever competitive employment market, how can we not take note?

Many of these adults have found that a high school diploma is no longer enough. A bachelor's degree is generally needed to get you in the door. Often a masters degree, is what will get you hired. Why would we accept any less from those that educate our children?

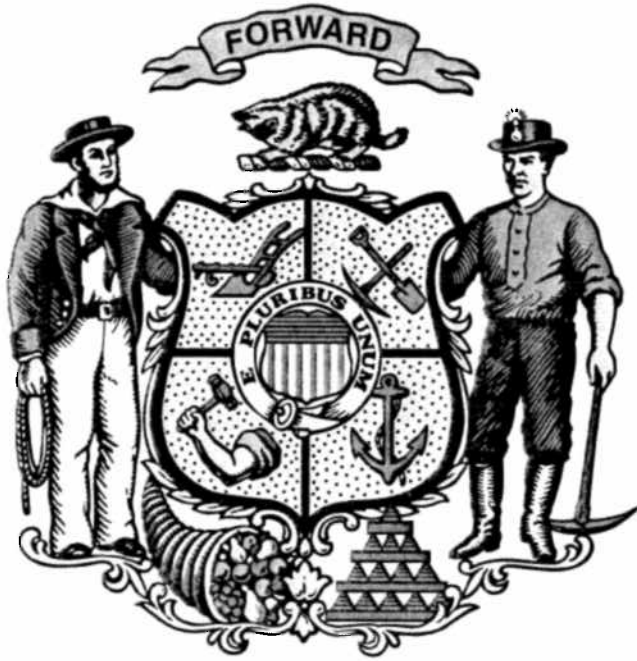
Good intentions and a good heart do not equal a good education. Instruction from those, who thought so little of education, that they did not pursue their own needed tools, to become measurably proficient, is unacceptable.

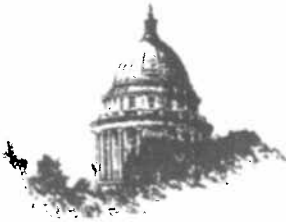
Further, I do not understand why we would allow a two-tiered system of education in our state. One system being comprised of children educated by instructors who are required to have mastered their respective crafts and subjects, complete with yearly continuing education and training to keep them abreast of new technology and best practices.

To sanction anything less than that in the other system is unthinkable. At the very minimum we must ensure that children, regardless of where they attend school, are being taught by licensed or permit holding instructional staff.

Support of SB 486 ensures that those charged with the care and education of our most precious asset, will be verifiably capable and certified to teach our children.

In closing, I am reminded of something my grandmother used to say, "It does not matter where you live or the size of your home, but your house must be kept in order." I implore your assistance to get in order the education of our children. Thank you.





Wisconsin State Senate

John Lehman

Senator – 21st District

State Capitol • PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free: 1-866-615-7510

**TESTIMONY OF SENATOR JOHN LEHMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 21, 2008 – PUBLIC HEARING
SENATE BILL 486**

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony on Senate Bill 486, which would require individuals who teach in schools in the taxpayer-funded Milwaukee Public Choice Program to be licensed by DPI under the same standards as their charter school counterparts.

SB-486 sets a floor for minimum certification standards for teachers in choice schools. Under current law, teachers in choice schools are only required to have a high school diploma. This bill simply ensures that all students whose education is supported by public tax dollars—regardless of which school they choose to attend—can count on having a licensed teacher providing instruction in the classroom.

Besides providing quality measures, minimum standards provide a measure of accountability to parents and taxpayers.

I strongly urge you to support SB-493.





State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

Senate Committee on Education
February 21, 2008

Department of Public Instruction Testimony on 2007 Senate Bill 486

Thank you to Chairperson Lehman and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Jennifer Kammerud. I am the legislative liaison for the Department of Public Instruction and am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 486 (SB 486) as it will increase the quality of education for students participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and provide protections for students attending these schools.

High quality teachers are critical to student success, this is recognized in federal law as well, under No Child Left Behind. The state has set forth expectations of what a teacher should know and be able to do before they may be licensed. These expectations are contained in Wisconsin's Quality Educator Initiative, also known as PI 34. Under PI 34.02 to receive a license to teach in Wisconsin, an applicant shall complete an approved program and demonstrate proficient performance in the knowledge, skills and dispositions under all of the following standards:

- (1) The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the disciplines he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for pupils.
- (2) The teacher understands how children with broad ranges of ability learn and provides instruction that supports their intellectual, social, and personal development.
- (3) The teacher understands how pupils differ in their approaches to learning and the barriers that impede learning and can adapt instruction to meet the diverse needs of pupils, including those with disabilities and exceptionalities.
- (4) The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies, including the use of technology to encourage children's development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.
- (5) The teacher uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

(6) The teacher uses effective verbal and nonverbal communication techniques as well as instructional media and technology to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.

(7) The teacher organizes and plans systematic instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, pupils, the community, and curriculum goals.

(8) The teacher understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the pupil.

(9) The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effect of his or her choices and actions on pupils, parents, professionals in the learning community and others and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

(10) The teacher fosters relationships with school colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community to support pupil learning and well being and who acts with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner.

SB 486 would also provide additional safeguards for students. In order to be licensed an applicant must undergo a state and federal background check. The department also checks applicants against a national database of educators whose licenses were revoked in other states. The additional benefit of licensure in this regard is the ability to file complaints resulting in potential loss of license, which would bar an individual from teaching in a school.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.





SONDY POPE-ROBERTS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony

February 21, 2008

SENATE BILL 486

Thank you Chairman Lehman and Committee Members for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 486. As you may know, I am the author of its Assembly Companion, which does not yet have a bill number.

I introduced the companion to Senator Taylor's "Quality Teachers for Every Student Act" for the same reasons I drafted the "Transcript Protection" legislation we discussed earlier. I want every student in Wisconsin to have the opportunity to receive a quality education that will allow them to become productive citizens who will become assets to society.

Just because we do not monitor voucher schools within the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, doesn't mean we can ignore our obligation that those students receive a quality education, similar to that which their public school counterparts receive.

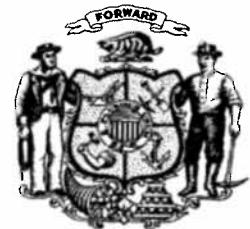
It is my conviction that the first step towards that goal is providing only quality teachers.

Licensing requirements ensure that teachers have received adequate training and education to be able to provide a solid learning environment for our children. This would include being able to recognize differences in abilities to learn, differences in teaching methods, and the ability to recognize a student's special needs, to name but a few of the many aspects necessary in providing a quality education for every student.

I will simply ask that you please support Senate Bill 486.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



School Choice

2025 North Summit Avenue, Suite 103, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • Phone 414 319-9160 • Fax 414 765-0220

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Sen. John Lehman
Chair - Senate Committee on Education
310 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Sen. Lehman,

I write today to oppose Senate Bill 486, relating to requiring the licensure of instructional staff in schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP). I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill.

School Choice Wisconsin believes that such an effort by the State of Wisconsin to force all private schools participating in the MPCP to require instructional staff to hold a license issued by the Department of Public Instruction sets a dangerous precedent. We believe that such a comprehensive requirement could threaten excessive entanglement by enacting "detailed monitoring and close administrative contact between secular and religious bodies".

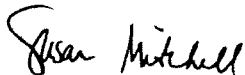
In addition, SCW opposes Senate Bill 486 because schools participating in the MPCP have a private system already in place to ensure teacher quality and educational standards.

Under 2005 Act 125, schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) must be accredited within three years by an approved agency. Each of these agencies requires that private teachers in the Choice Program have college degrees. Many agencies, including the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the Wisconsin North Central Association (WNCA) and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee require additional training and education credits in the specific subjects that a staff person teaches. All accreditation agencies require that teachers have a professional development plan focused on the subjects they teach as well.

Last week, academic researchers from the School Choice Demonstration Project (SCDP) released their initial findings from a five-year longitudinal study of the MPCP. These first reports confirm why SB 486 is unnecessary; parents with children in the MPCP report high levels of satisfaction with the education their child is receiving. Over 90% of the parents surveyed in the MPCP said they were very satisfied or satisfied with the academic quality of their child's school. Nearly 90% of parents said they were satisfied with the amount their child has learned and with the performance of their child's teacher.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Mitchell
President