



# DUEY STROEBEL

STATE SENATOR • 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

## Testimony on SB 250

Chairman Olsen and fellow senators of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 250 so quickly. SB 250 seeks to correct an unintended consequence of changes in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) made in the state budget. As a result of enforcing the new one percent district enrollment caps on participation in the WPCP, which the Department of Public Instruction can explain, a small number of children who attended a WPCP school in the 2014-2015 school year *are not eligible* for the 2015-2016 school year. These children will, in all likelihood, be forced from their school if the Legislature does not act.

I am a strong supporter of the WPCP and agreed with its expansion. However, I am aware that there is a diversity of opinion on the policy area of school choice. It is my hope the committee can put the underlying policy issue of school choice aside and focus on the small number of children and families who will be disrupted if we do not fix this consequence of the new one percent cap. Both DPI and School Choice Wisconsin have reviewed SB 250 and have agreed the bill fixes this technical problem. I respectfully request your support and a speedy executive session so no child in Wisconsin is *kicked out* of his or her school because of a technical error. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Duey Stroebel".

Senator Duey Stroebel



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**Testimony on Senate Bill 250  
September 8, 2015  
Senate Committee on Education  
Chair, Senator Luther Olsen**

School Choice Wisconsin supports Senate Bill 250. Upon passage of the biennial budget, School Choice Wisconsin was made aware that the new parameters surrounding the 1% district cap may have some unintended consequences. Senate Bill 250 narrowly addresses those concerns.

For the first two years, the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program's 1% district cap applied to only those students who transferred out of a public school. However, the current definition of the 1% district cap applies to all students who reside in the district. In a small number of cases, this has created a situation where students that were enrolled in the program in the 2014-15 school year will not be allowed to continue in the program in 2015-16 school year.

School Choice Wisconsin believes this was not the intent of the legislature. While there are certain limitations placed on the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program moving forward, at no point were there discussions on removing current students. Senate Bill 250 allows for those students to retain their eligibility in the program.

School Choice Wisconsin would like to thank Senator Stroebel and Representative Sanfelippo for their efforts in finding a solution to this problem.

Jim Bender  
President  
School Choice Wisconsin