

11/5/96

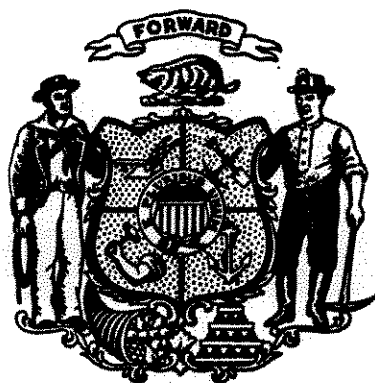
Dear Sen. Burke

- We are writing to express our opposition to the Rails to Trails project.
- ① We feel the cost to obtain, develop and maintain this project is humongous.
 - ② At the same time we feel the adjoining landowners privacy will be invaded should this project be developed.
 - ③ Last but not least we feel this land belongs to the landowners and not the railroad. We are fed up with government intervention.

Sincerely

Henry Arline
Hrobleski

END



END

October 18, 1996

Ms. Mary Zirbel
School District of Brown Deer
8200 North 60th Street
Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53223

Dear Ms. Zirbel:

Thank you for contacting me with your thoughts concerning the school aids formula and property tax relief. I appreciate hearing from you.

Finding ways to provide property tax relief for all taxpayers is an important issue and will be a top priority for legislators next session. As we debate issues related to the state financing of public education and property tax relief, you can be sure that I will keep your comments in mind.

I believe strongly that we have an obligation to provide our children with quality public education and that all public school students should receive equal educational opportunities.

Again, I appreciate hearing your views on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me again should you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec



School District of Brown Deer

8200 N. 60TH STREET
BROWN DEER, WISCONSIN 53223

October 1, 1996

The Honorable Senator Brian Burke, Co-Chair
Joint Finance Committee
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Senator Burke:

Re: Three Tier Equalization Aid Formula and School Levy Credit

The Brown Deer School Board supports legislative efforts to provide property tax relief and increased funding of public education for ALL districts in the state of Wisconsin by the promised two-thirds pick up of state school aids.

Our school district will receive an increase in state school aid due primarily to the fact that Brown Deer has more or less been denied general school aid for more than a decade. Yet, Brown Deer has a significant number of elderly people and persons on fixed incomes who are in need and deserve property tax relief like those in other districts. Our community has been labeled as "property rich," although our income levels are at the state average at best.

While the 34 first tier districts educate nearly 9% of the student population and provide the bulk of state income and sales tax revenues (which are the source of the funds being redistributed for property tax relief), they will receive less than 1% of the \$3.2 billion in state school aids.

When considering the distribution of state school aids on a per pupil basis, urban schools and other equalization aid districts who are crying out for more aid are already coming out on the top. On average the 34 first tier districts are projected to receive \$707 per student while the other 392 school districts will receive an average of \$3,881 per student. Poorer districts will be getting 80% of their school bill funded by the state. Still, these districts are seeking to take our small share of state school aids.

Residents of Brown Deer contribute to the tax base in the state of Wisconsin and should share in the property tax relief and funding of public education as well. We contend that the present three tier equalization formula is fair in its distribution of state aid dollars, whereby EVERY student is guaranteed some support from state generated tax dollars. The present formula does assure that districts which spend less on education and have lower property values will receive the greatest level of property tax relief.

The Brown Deer School Board urges your support of the current budget bill that funds public education at 66% and also provides property tax relief for ALL.

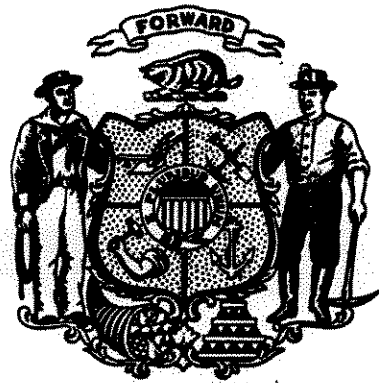
Respectfully,

School Board

Mary Zirbel

Mary Zirbel
Lobbying Committee

END



END

September 23, 1996

The Honorable Joseph Leean, Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services
Room 650
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Secretary Leean:

It has been brought to my attention that Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) are eligible for between \$10 and \$20 million of federal assistance for reimbursement of medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children pursuant to Individualized Education Programs. I am writing to urge you to provide MPS with the financial support needed to offset administrative costs incurred in the process of applying for this aid.

I have been advised that the administrative costs would be small, ~~considering~~ *and an infusion of* the extent of the federal assistance available. ~~Certainly~~ \$10 to \$20 million in ~~reimbursement~~ *reimbursement* revenue would be ~~considerably~~ *obviously be* beneficial for public schools in Milwaukee.

As you may know, MPS has contracted ^{for} the services of Kinney and Associates, Inc. to seek these reimbursements from the federal fund. Any assistance you could provide to Kinney throughout this process would be greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

cc: John Kiesow, DHFS

October 9, 1996

Matt and Cindy Waller
3040 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703

Dear Matt and Cindy:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond to your recent letter to former Senator Joseph Leraan who was appointed by the Governor to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. I have been serving as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance since June of this year.

I appreciate your candor in describing your son's health problems, and I am pleased to learn that he has made such great progress with therapy. Your present situation concerning benefit cuts to the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program, unfortunately, is not surprising.

During the last state budget cycle, legislators made drastic cuts to many medical assistance and social programs. These cuts have had significant effects on individuals, like your son, who rely on those benefits. In part because of those cuts, I did not vote in favor of the budget.

As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will be working with my colleagues next session to restore many of those medical and social service benefits that were previously cut.

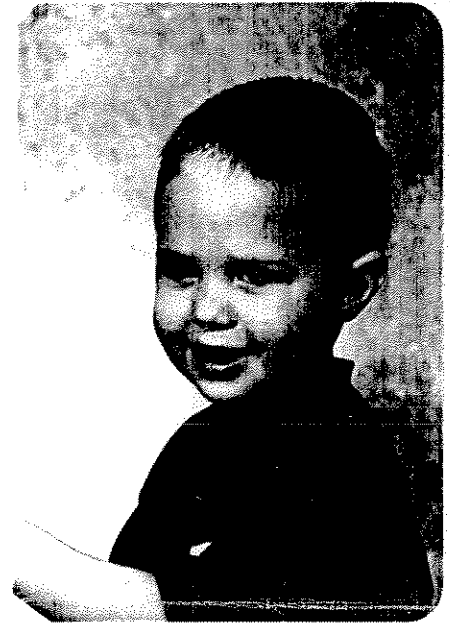
Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. Please accept my very best wishes for an enjoyable autumn.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

September 25, 1996



~~Senator Joe Lcean~~ *Sen. Burke*
Joint Finance Committee
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Lcean,

We are the parents of a son with a learning disability. Ben, age 3 1/2, has been diagnosed with Pervasive Development Disorder, a form of autism. We are currently receiving Sensory Based Therapy at the Special Children's Center in Hudson, Wisconsin twice per week for the past nine months.

Prior to Ben receiving therapy he:

- * Made little eye contact
- * Did not follow simple commands
- * Did not respond when his name was called
- * Did not verbally communicate
- * Frequently isolated himself
- * Had little to no peer interaction
- * Had very limited social skills
- * Had limited attention span and ability to stay focused on activities
- * Was easily over-stimulated by large crowds and loud noises
- * Only ate limited food items with his fingers

After nine months of intense therapy and follow through at home, Ben has made a great deal of progress in each of these areas. However, he is not functioning at "normal" development stages yet and is by no means ready for discharge from services.

We are concerned that our son is at risk of being denied services from Wisconsin Medical Assistance. We understand that cutbacks are necessary, but PLEASE DO NOT TAKE IT AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN WHO CAN NOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

Page 2

Parenting Ben is challenging enough without having our state denying him the benefits of co-treatment routinely offered by other states.

Please help us to protect our family and others like us. We will continue to fight for our child, suffer the financial loss of time from work, child care, travel, and legal expenses to appeal the Bureau of Health Care Financing decision.

Please help!

Sincerely,



Matt and Cindy Waller
3040 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-831-0772

October 9, 1996

Matt and Cindy Waller
3040 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703

Dear Matt and Cindy:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond to your recent letter to former Senator Joseph Leean who was appointed by the Governor to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. I have been serving as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance since June of this year.

I appreciate your candor in describing your son's health problems, and I am pleased to learn that he has made such great progress with therapy. Your present situation concerning benefit cuts to the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program, unfortunately, is not surprising.

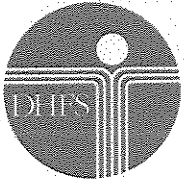
During the last state budget cycle, legislators made drastic cuts to many medical assistance and social programs. These cuts have had significant effects on ~~citizens~~ ^{individuals}, like your son, who rely on those benefits. In part because of those cuts, I did not vote in favor of the budget for ~~FY1995-1997~~.

As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will be working with my colleagues ^{next} ~~this session~~ ~~as we debate the next state budget~~ ^{state} to restore many of those medical and social service benefits that were previously cut.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. Please accept my very best wishes for an enjoyable autumn.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Joe Leean, Secretary

October 10, 1996

The Honorable Brian B. Burke
Wisconsin State Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Burke:

Thank you for your letter suggesting that Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) are eligible for \$10-\$20 million in federal reimbursement.

You may not be aware that a plan to document and attain this reimbursement by Kinney and Associates was presented by the Department of Health and Social Services/Department of Health and Family Services on May 9, 1996, to Region V of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), and their response was no. You also should be made aware that MPS was not a certified Medical Assistance provider during the years in question.

We recently contacted MPS to propose that we work with MPS, and with Kinney and Associates under their contract with MPS, to try to address HCFA's concerns by submitting additional information or a new plan to HCFA. MPS agreed they or Kinney and Associates will contact us soon to begin this process.

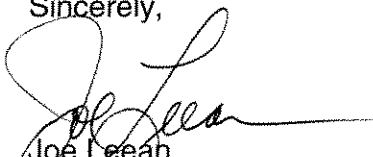
In addition, for services after July 1, 1995, MPS could have claimed Medicaid funds under Medicaid's school-based services benefit for the same types of school medical services that Kinney and Associates included in their proposal. Medicaid notified MPS about this opportunity in November 1995, and sent MPS certification applications in April and again in August 1996. MPS has not responded.

The State of Wisconsin is working with a consulting firm to attain income augmentation of potential federal reimbursement. Kinney and Associates was one of the firms that submitted a proposal in response to our competitive Request for Proposals. They were not selected. However, Kinney and Associates can continue their contract with MPS to claim federal matching dollars for Milwaukee's school medical services.

You also asked about financial support to offset administrative costs in applying for aid. The costs for documenting and preparing the request for reimbursement are typically underwritten by the consulting firm or billing agent, and paid out of successful reimbursement revenues.

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Sincerely,



Joe Leean
Secretary



BRIAN BURKE
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

September 23, 1996

The Honorable Joseph Leean, Secretary
Department of Health and Family Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 650
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Secretary Leean:

It has been brought to my attention that Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) are eligible for between \$10 and \$20 million in federal assistance for reimbursement of medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children pursuant to Individualized Education Programs. I am writing to urge you to provide MPS with the financial support needed to offset administrative costs incurred in the process of applying for this aid.

I have been advised that the administrative costs would be small, and an infusion of \$10 to \$20 million in federal revenue would obviously be beneficial for public schools in Milwaukee.

As you may know, MPS has contracted for the services of Kinney and Associates, Inc. to seek these reimbursements from the federal fund. Any assistance you could provide to Kinney throughout this process would be greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

cc: John Kiesow, DHFS

411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4497
414/277-5000
FAX 414/271-3552

Attorneys at Law in
Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin
West Palm Beach and Naples, Florida
Phoenix, Arizona

Quarles & Brady

September 18, 1996

Senator Brian Burke
Co-Chair of Joint Finance Committee
100 N. Hamilton St., Room 302
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Brian:

It was nice to visit with you yesterday and receive an update regarding your views on the pending fall elections!

In your capacity as Chair of the Joint Finance Committee, I would like to bring to your attention a positive Milwaukee Public Schools new revenue initiative that we are pursuing on behalf of the contractor assisting with the initiative, Kinney and Associates, Inc. Between ten and twenty million dollars (depending upon the extent of retro activity) of new federal dollars, are available to MPS as reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children pursuant to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

For this effort to be productive, it is essential that the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, through Secretary Joe Leean, provide a modest amount of state administrative assistance. To date, several meetings have been held with a number of DEFS officials, but the commitment to doing what needs to be done has not yet been made. Appreciate that this goes back nearly five months, as the enclosed documentation confirms.

Would you be receptive to directing a letter to Secretary Leean, with a copy to John Kiesow of his staff, encouraging the Department of Health and Family Services to respond expeditiously and favorably to the request of MPS for necessary assistance from the Department? Our thought is that your weighing in on this issue may move the Secretary and the Department to action that has not otherwise occurred.

I should mention that Warren Braun of the Milwaukee School Board will be contacting the Department also. He is of the firm

*Julie -
letter to Leean ✓
cc Kiesow ✓
pcc to Drussan ✓
and Warren Braun ✓*

State Senator Brian Burke
September 18, 1996
Page 2

belief that MPS must pursue non-traditional funding mechanisms such as this.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (414) 277-5759, or the Milwaukee-based Kinney Consultant for the project, Don Weihs at 258-1810.

Very truly yours,

QUARLES & BRADY

Anthony H. Driessen
Anthony H. Driessen

AHD/sg1

Kinney & Associates, Inc.

720 Sixth Avenue • Troy, New York 12182 • (518) 238-0268

(800) 249-6004

September 6, 1996

Secretary Joseph Leean
Administrator
WI Dept of Health and Family Services
1 West Wilson Street
Room 650
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Federal Medicaid Reimbursement of School-Based
Medical Expenses for the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)

Dear Secretary Leean:

This letter will report on the status of Kinney & Associates, Inc.'s (Kinney) efforts to achieve federal reimbursement of the referenced Medicaid expenses.

Last spring, we notified the Wisconsin DHSS of the need for state administrative assistance in our efforts on behalf of MPS.

Specifically, we advised DHSS on April 3, 1996 as follows:

"... as you are aware, MPS must file its claims for this reimbursement through the Wisconsin Department of Social Services. In order for this to occur, the Department must generate applicable billing rates, establish billing procedures, apply those rates to MPS supplied service data and submit these claims to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

Kinney has the expertise to develop the MPS data necessary to implement this program and to assist the State so as to support the MPS claims. The State is not at risk and should not incur any substantial administrative burden. Kinney's services, in turn, are being compensated by MPS, so there is also no State expense from that standpoint."

A complete copy of counsel's communication to DHSS is attached.

QB3\222993.

Kinney & Associates, Inc.

720 Sixth Avenue • Troy, New York 12182 • (518) 238-0268

(800) 249-6004

Secretary Joseph LEEAN
September 6, 1996
Page 2

Following that letter, we understand that DHSS contacted HCFA regional staff in Chicago regarding Kinney's assertions as to possible Medicaid reimbursement for the pre-July 1, 1995 period. By the time Kinney was made aware of HCFA's response, we were also advised that any further State administrative assistance would be handled through a Request For Proposals (RFP) that might cover this and other potential cost recovery work for the State and its political subdivisions.

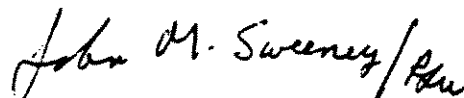
The delay from then until now has been due to the State's effort to promulgate the RFP, to review the proposals that were submitted, and to make an award for this procurement. We have recently been informed that the State intends to negotiate a cost recovery consulting contract with one of our competitors, Maximus, that will cover a number of unrelated cost recovery projects, but not specifically the work necessary to process MPS's claim. (Maximus did not submit a specific project proposal for this work delineating their approach or the possible revenue outcomes, nor did Maximus claim any specialized expertise related to this retroactive claim.)

Had we been asked or allowed to assist DHSS in their pursuit of this issue with HCFA, we may have been able to move the matter further along. The RFP process intervened; and we are now suggesting that as a result of the RFP process, DHSS has the opportunity to contract with Kinney to address this and other identified areas that are not covered by the Maximus proposal.

If we can provide any further information in this regard, please contact me at (800) 250-9470.

Very truly yours,

KINNEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.



John M. Sweeney
Managing Director

RLW/sgl
Enclosures

cc: Dr. Audrey L. Potter, Milwaukee Public Schools

QB3\222993.



April 3, 1996

Mr. James J. Vavra
Acting Director Bureau of Health Care Financing
Wisconsin DHSS
1 West Wilson Street
Room 250
Madison, WI 53702

Re: Federal Reimbursement of School-Based Medical Expenses

Dear Mr. Vavra:

We are writing on behalf of Kinney & Associates, Inc. (Kinney), a consultant to the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). MPS, through the use of this consultant, is seeking Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children pursuant to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Kinney's engagement covers the period preceding the July 1, 1995 Wisconsin State Plan Amendment (SPA) for such school-based services.

Based on extensive experience in other states, Kinney believes that MPS is eligible for federal reimbursement of many of its expenses, even for the period before those expenses were covered by the July 1, 1995 SPA (e.g. from April 1994 through June 1995).

However, as you are aware, MPS must file its claims for this reimbursement through the Wisconsin Department of Social Services. In order for this to occur, the Department must generate applicable billing rates, establish billing procedures, apply those rates to MPS supplied service data and submit these claims to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

Kinney has the expertise to develop the MPS data necessary to implement this program and to assist the State so as to support the MPS claims. The State is not at risk and should not incur any substantial administrative burden. Kinney's services, in turn, are being compensated by MPS, so there is also no State expense from that standpoint.

Mr. Vavra
April 3, 1996
Page 2

There are opportunities to further expand the MPS benefit and to extend it to other districts as well. A school district reimbursement plan can be established under which past expenses as far back as April 1990 can be reimbursed. This is a somewhat more difficult undertaking and will require careful consideration to verify it can be done, not only with no long-term risk, but also without any adverse short-term cash flow consequences.

Whatever the situation with respect to any possible expanded level of reimbursement as alluded to above. Kinney is anxious, on MPS' behalf, to move forward immediately on the initial reimbursement of MPS expenses. We emphasize again that there is no risk to the State.

Staff from Kinney have met and had a number of telephone conversations with staff from your Division, especially Marge Hannon Pifer, who have expressed general support for the Kinney approach; but the press of workload in these very hectic times for social services/Medicaid staff has precluded any expedited treatment for the proposed approach.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience to carry this program forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

QUARLES & BRADY

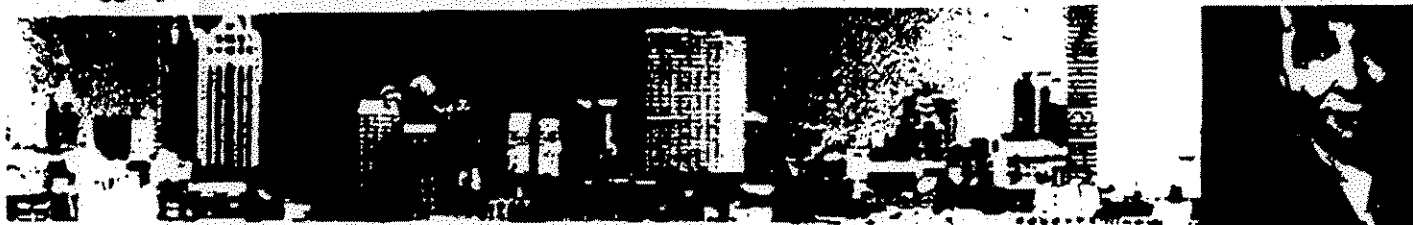
Anthony H. Driessen

AHD/lmb

cc: Kevin Piper, Division Administrator, Division of Health

SEP-17-1996 16:08 FROM Milw. Common Council Info TO

92586711 P.02



JOHN R. KALWITZ
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT
5020 N. 74th Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53218

PRESIDENT OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570
(414) 286-2221 (FAX) 286-3456

September 17, 1996

Secretary Joseph Lekan
Department of Health & Social Services
State of Wisconsin
1 West Wilson St., Room 250
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Secretary Lekan:

I have been advised that the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is eligible for federal reimbursement of between \$10-20 million for many of its medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children pursuant to the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

However, I have recently been informed that necessary assistance from DHSS has not yet been forthcoming to assure recovery of these funds through services provided by Kinney & Associates. That may have been an unfortunate oversight.

I endorsed those efforts in a letter to former MPS Board President Mary Bills some time ago. Since then, MPS has hired Kinney & Associates, Inc. to seek those reimbursements, which could include recovering many of the expenses for the period before those expenses were covered by the July 1, 1995 Wisconsin State Plan Amendment (SPA) for such school-based services.

Based upon Kinney's experience in other states, the firm believes that MPS is not only eligible for those expenses, but foresees the possibility of establishing a reimbursement plan under which expenses as far back as 1990 might be reimbursed.

Of equal concern to the City of Milwaukee is getting implementation of the three Wisconsin Income Augmentation Areas proposed by Kinney & Associates. DHSS should utilize the flexibility for multiple awards in its Request for Proposal and contract with Kinney & Associates for its services.

Milwaukee
1111-1991

SEP-17-1996 16:09 FROM Milw. Common Council Info TO

92586711 P.03

Secretary Lekan - 2

In that connection, I understand that under the proposal developed by Kinney & Associates, the State of Wisconsin its counties, municipalities and school districts could recover up to a cumulative total of \$70 million annually in new federal revenue. Over a three year period, that could amount to more than \$200 million. Based upon population, Milwaukee County would receive up to \$50 million of those funds.

I don't think there is any disagreement that Milwaukee County could use those dollars. And, Milwaukee residents, who make up about half the County's population, would stand to gain greatly.

This is an opportunity that we cannot allow to be lost! Federal dollars for state and local programs are being cut and services curtailed at an alarming rate.

As you know, we simply do not have the resources necessary to meet all of our needs. That requires that we do everything possible to seek out every federal dollar that is available.

I would strongly urge that you initiate efforts to have your department provide Kinney & Associates with the necessary administrative assistance to permit these claims to be pursued by them.

With every good and kind wish, I remain

Sincerely,



JOHN R. KALWITZ
2nd District Alderman
Common Council President

cc: Gov. Tommy G. Thompson

JR112jbl/lecanaps.doc

October 28, 1996

Ms. Lori Nyhus
2849 4th Street
Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829

Dear Lori:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond to your recent letter to former Senator Joseph Leraan who was appointed by the Governor to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. I have been serving as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance since June of this year.

I appreciate your candor in describing your sons' health problems, and I am pleased to learn that they have made such great progress with therapy. Your present situation concerning benefit cuts to the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program, unfortunately, is not surprising.

During the last state budget cycle, legislators made drastic cuts to many medical assistance and social programs. These cuts have had significant effects on individuals, like your sons, who rely on those benefits. In part because of those cuts, I did not vote in favor of the budget.

As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will be working with my colleagues next session to restore many of those medical and social service benefits that were previously cut.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. Please accept my very best wishes for an enjoyable autumn.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

October 21, 1996

OCT 24 1996

Sen. Burke
~~Senator Joe Leean~~

Joint Finance Committee

PO Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707

RE: Medical Assistance of Wisconsin Coverage

Dear Senator Leean:

Please help our family. Medical Assistance of Wisconsin is limiting their coverage for children with special needs in providing speech-language therapy, occupational therapy & physical therapy services. Our family's major concern is felt for the limitations that are being placed on therapy and my children's potential which will in turn affect my sons independence in our family life.

Travis and Trevor (identical twins) have been diagnosed with various conditions, VSD - which is a heart defect, Atypical seizure disorders which are associated only by eye-blinking, never grand mal, Pervasive Development Disorder, a diagnosis which we recently have been informed to eliminate due to the fact that their most recent diagnosis, Landau-Kleffner Disorder is a more accurate diagnosis. Our sons have received speech, occupational and physical therapy in order to make their daily living skills easier for everyone involved, but, most important, for them to have confidence in themselves. My boys have responded exceptionally well to the programming through the therapy services provided at Special Children Center. Medical Assistance is now beginning to deny therapy services stating that the schools should take over these therapies. Schools are, to my knowledge, only responsible for school based academic treatment, not medical need. However, the guidelines for Medical Assistance prior authorizations are broad enough to allow these biases to occur. I have an additional problem as that the schools inform us that our sons treatment is medical, not educational and they are not qualified enough to provide the type of therapy that these two very special boys require. The bureaucratic paper shuffle is delaying authorizations and denials and increasing costs for both the providers and the state.

Additionally, my children cannot receive co-therapy treatments for speech and language therapy because they are on Medical Assistance in Wisconsin. Other MA programs cover this valuable and beneficial service.

Please help us receive the services our twins need to achieve their fullest potential, which will help everyone involved. The more these two boys can accomplish on their own, the less they will depend on others for assistance. They want to do things on their own but, unlike you and I, they need to be taught how to accomplish small tasks on their own, we were fortunate to develop these skills by themselves. Imagine yourself not being able to button a shirt, or hold a spoon without spilling, these are skills our sons need to continue building on to get better. Please help us!

Sincerely,

Lori Nyhus

Lori Nyhus

October 28, 1996

Odell and Ruth Olson
92 70th Avenue
Clayton, Wisconsin 54004

Dear Odell and Ruth:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond to your recent letter to former Senator Joseph Leraan who was appointed by the Governor to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. I have been serving as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance since June of this year.

I appreciate your candor in describing your son's health problems, and I am pleased to learn that he has made such great progress with therapy. Your present situation concerning benefit cuts to the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program, unfortunately, is not surprising.

During the last state budget cycle, legislators made drastic cuts to many medical assistance and social programs. These cuts have had significant effects on individuals, like your son, who rely on those benefits. In part because of those cuts, I did not vote in favor of the budget.

As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will be working with my colleagues next session to restore many of those medical and social service benefits that were previously cut.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. Please accept my very best wishes for an enjoyable autumn.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

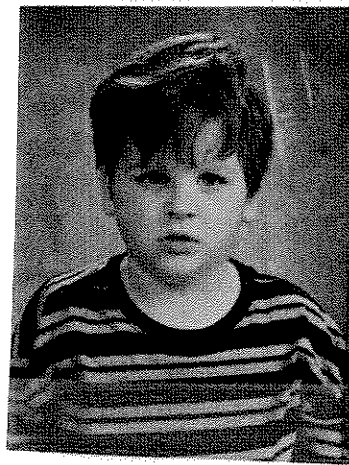
20 October 1996

Senator Burke
~~Senator Joe Lee~~

Joint Finance Committee

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707



OCT 24 1996

Dear Senator:

Please help us. Medical Assistance of Wisconsin is limiting their coverage for children with special needs in providing occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language therapy service. Major concern is felt for the limitations that are being placed on therapy and my child's potential which will affect my child's independence in our family life.

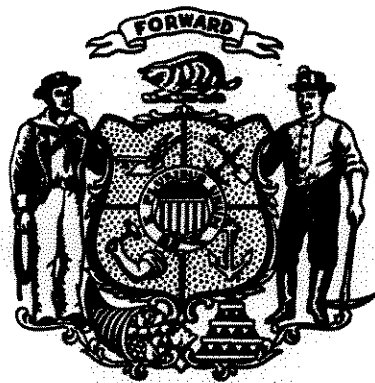
Dustin was diagnosed with autism and has received therapy for several years at Special Children Center. I feel he has benefited greatly from this service. Medical Assistance is beginning to deny therapy stating that schools should take this over. Schools, however, are not responsible for medical need services. The guidelines for Medical Assistance prior authorizations are broad enough to allow these biases to occur. The bureaucratic paper shuffle is delaying authorization and denials and increasing costs for both the providers and the state.

Additionally, my child cannot receive co-therapy treatments for speech and language because he is on Medical Assistance in Wisconsin. Other MA programs cover this valuable service. Please help us help Dustin receive the services he needs to reach his full potential.

Sincerely yours,

Odell and Ruth Olson
92 70th Ave.
Clayton WI 54004

END



END

September 23, 1996

The Honorable James Klauser
Secretary
Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53792

Dear Secretary Klauser:

Enclosed please find a copy of your recent letter to the Chairman Jack Pelisek of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority Board of Directors. The letter was copied to several people, including Representative Ben Brancel and Senator Timothy Weeden.

As you may recall, I was named Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Finance in June of this year. ~~I thought it appropriate to remind you that correspondence relating to this committee should be sent directly to me, as Senator Weeden is no longer the Senate Chair.~~

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec

*& replaced Sen. Weeden on the
Hospitals & Clinics
Authority Board*
*→ I would appreciate any further
correspondence ~~on this~~
related to this Board
sent to me.*

September 23, 1996

The Honorable James Klauser
Secretary
Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53792

Dear Secretary Klauser:

Enclosed please find a copy of your recent letter to Chairman Jack Pelisek of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority Board of Directors. The letter was copied to several people, including Representative Ben Brancel and Senator Timothy Weeden.

As you may recall, I was named Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Finance in June of this year and replaced Senator Weeden on the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority Board of Directors. I would appreciate any further correspondence related to this Board be sent to me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE
State Senator

BBB/jec