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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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

## 1997-98

(session year)

## Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

## Committee on Education...

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

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

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

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

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)



Registrations against

- None.

February 11, 1998

**EXECUTIVE SESSION by Polling**

Present: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski,  
Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman, Roessler and  
Fitzgerald.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator C. Potter that **Senate Bill 406** be recommended  
for passage.

Ayes: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski,  
Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman, Roessler  
and Fitzgerald..

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0, Absent 0

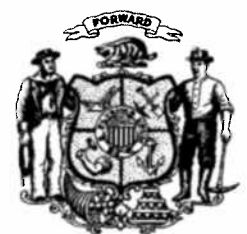


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Paul Rusk  
Committee Clerk



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



CALVIN J. POTTER  
State Senator



MEMO

Wisconsin State Senate

TO: Members of the Education Committee  
FROM: Cal Potter  
RE: Paper Ballot on SB 406 (AB 723)  
DATE: February 11, 1998

SB 406 relating to the Wisconsin Humanities Council had a hearing on January 28. We planned to vote on it that day but because of the lateness of the hour we did not have an Executive Session. In the haste of activities this morning we also did not vote on the bill.

Companion legislation (AB 723) received a hearing before the Assembly Committee on Tourism and Recreation and was voted out 10 to 1. The Assembly bill is now pending in the Joint Finance Committee. This bill will also go to Joint Finance.

Enclosed is a paper ballot for the bill. IF YOU COULD PLEASE RETURN IT TO MY OFFICE BY THURSDAY AT 5 P.M. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT.

Thank you.

---

PAPER BALLOT

SB 406 Be Recommended for Passage

Aye

No

Signature

*Alberta Durling*

Date

*2/14/98*



CALVIN J. POTTER  
State Senator



FEB 12 1998

MEMO

Wisconsin State Senate

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PAPER BALLOT

SB 406 Be Recommended for Passage

Aye

No

Signature

Date

*James B. Heuleman* 2/12/98

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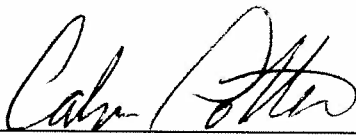
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PAPER BALLOT

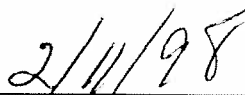
SB 406 Be Recommended for Passage

Aye

No



Signature



Date



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SB 406 Be Recommended for Passage

Aye

No

Calvin J. Potter Feb. 12, 1998  
Signature Date

CALVIN J. POTTER  
State Senator



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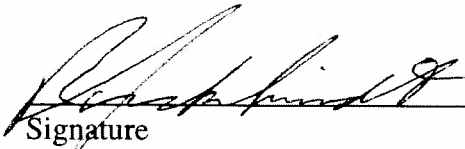
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PAPER BALLOT

SB 406 Be Recommended for Passage

Aye

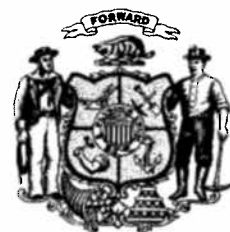
No

  
Signature

2-11-98  
Date



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Remarks before the Senate Education Committee

January 28, 1998

By Susan Brewer, Associate Professor of History, UW-Stevens Point

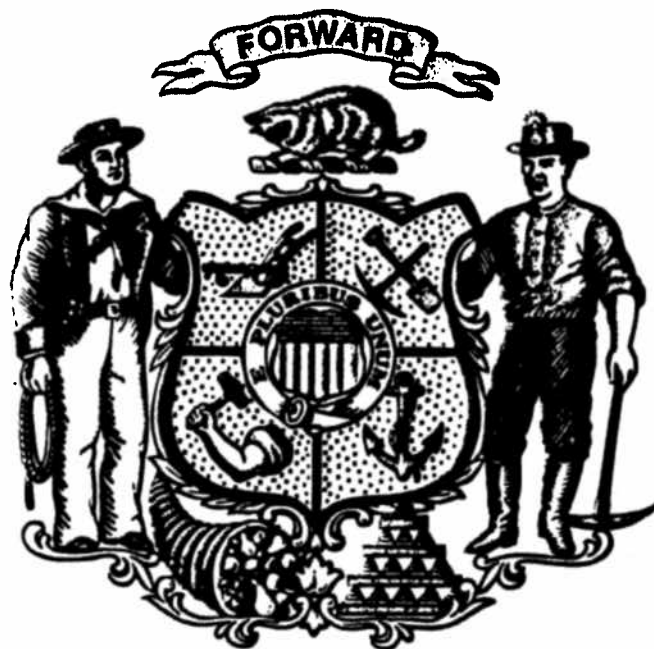
Imagine discussing Wisconsin's history since 1945 with the people who made it: Governors Lee Dreyfus, Tony Earl, Patrick Lucey, and Gaylord Nelson; Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices Shirley Abrahamson and William Bablitch; former and current state legislators Lloyd Barbee, Harry Franke, David Helbach, Kirby Hendee, Robert Jauch, Midge Miller, Mary Lou Munts, David Prosser, and Fred Risser; and commentators and politicians Bill Dixon, Ody Fish, Robert Froehlke, Ed Garvey, Bill Kraus, and Frank Zeidler. These makers of history, along with business and labor leaders, educators, and journalists participated in a twelve-week discussion series called *The Progressive Legacy*, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and funded in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

The panelists considered the influence on Wisconsin politics and society of the progressive tradition of honest, clean and open government, citizen access and participation, and experimenting with reform. By offering diverse opinions on such issues as environmentalism, policy-making, the economy, political campaigns, and the Wisconsin Idea, the panelists presented an engaging debate that provoked the audience members to think through their own opinions.

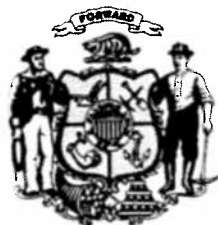
Some comments from the audience, which averaged two hundred people per program, included "*The Progressive Legacy* has been the most intellectually stimulating public program that I have attended in many years. This program represents the best elements of the Wisconsin Idea" and "Seeing diverse perspectives working together to form a nationally admired environmental consciousness has increased my respect for the legislature and political history of our state." The goal of humanities programming was accomplished as those attending saw how and why the history of the state affects the state of the state.

*The Progressive Legacy* continues. The twelve programs were videotaped and have been distributed to universities and schools, public libraries, and the state and county historical societies. Wisconsin public television has broadcast the program. We still receive requests for tapes of the program. It has become an invaluable resource.

The talents, hard work, and generosity of many people made *The Progressive Legacy* possible, but the program would not have happened without a grant of \$25,000 from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. This essential grant launched the project. Because of funding cuts, the Wisconsin Humanities Council can no longer make grants of \$25,000 which means that ambitious programs like *The Progressive Legacy* would now find it difficult to get off the ground. Therefore I not only urge support for Senate Bill #406, but ask that the legislature consider increasing funding in order to make possible more programs like *The Progressive Legacy*.







# **BRIAN BURKE**

**WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR**

Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

## TESTIMONY OF SENATOR BRIAN BURKE ON SENATE BILL 406 BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION JANUARY 28, 1998

Thank you, Chairperson Potter, for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 406 relating to providing state funding for the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Senator Burke would also like to thank the members of this committee who are co-sponsors of this bill, Chairperson Potter, and Senators Darling, Grobschmidt and Jauch.

I'd like to start with a very brief overview of the Wisconsin Humanities Council. In 1965 Congress established the National Endowment for the Humanities as an independent grant-making agency of the federal government to support research, education, and public programming in the humanities. In 1970 the NEH created state affiliates in order to foster local and statewide public humanities programs. These councils are nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations governed by volunteer boards. They use the federal funding they receive to leverage individual, corporate and foundation support at the local level.

The Wisconsin Humanities Council was founded in 1972. During the past 25 years they have assisted communities all across Wisconsin in developing programs to help state residents discuss current public issues from the perspective of the humanities. These programs include lectures, exhibits, multi-session reading and discussion series, K-12 teacher institutes and in-services, television documentaries, radio programs, oral histories, and conferences, among others.

While the WHC has worked hard to extend its federal funding by forming partnerships with both state and local organizations, this federal support has been declining steadily, just at a time when local interest is soaring.

This legislation seeks to provide one-time state funding in the amount of \$250,000 to the WHC for FY '98-'99. This will allow the Council to continue to fund programs to help us learn about our nation's heritage and our own regional history. All of these funds will be awarded as grants, with none used for administrative costs.

Due to our Sesquicentennial celebrations, there has been a renewed interest in our state's rich history and culture from communities around the state. The WHC has received requests of more than \$1.3 million to fund such projects, and have only been able to disperse about \$400,000 in grants. This additional funding will allow the Council to sustain programs that grow from the Sesquicentennial projects, which benefits all the citizens of our state.

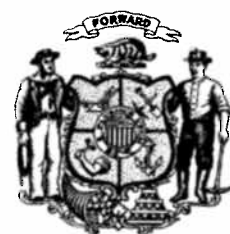
STATE CAPITOL, POST OFFICE BOX 7882, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882

PHONE (608) 266-8535 OR 1-800-249-8173; FAX (608) 267-0274

Recycled Paper



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Remarks in Support of Funding for the Wisconsin Humanities Council  
before the Senate Committee on Education on January 28, 1998**

**by Professor Michael A. Gordon  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
Phone: 414-229-4314  
Fax: 414-229-2435  
e-mail: mgordon@uwm.edu**

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill. My name is Michael Gordon. I am an Associate Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where I teach Wisconsin history, oral history, and other courses in the History Department and the Urban Studies Program. I also am the coordinator of the Public History Program in our department, which provides training for graduate students who are interested in careers in museums, historical societies, archives, and in historic preservation. I would like to begin by mentioning some of the projects I have worked on with Milwaukee public school teachers and community groups that have been funded by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. They provide just a few examples of what I think has been valuable educational programming.

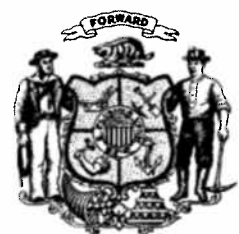
In the last three years, I have conducted several intensive oral history workshops. One, sponsored by the Milwaukee Public Theatre, enabled about twenty-five educators to work with children in gathering family histories that were turned into presentations about family and neighborhood history, role models, and achievement. In another oral history activity, I am currently working on an adult education project with Milwaukee's Wild Space Dance Company, which is gathering stories about family and neighborhood history from nursing home residents and clients of senior citizen centers. The dance company will incorporate some of this history into a new production this spring. I also have conducted an oral history workshop for about 50 Milwaukee Public School System teachers, and in yet another project I worked with Joan Lopresti, an innovative teacher at Milwaukee's Garden Home Middle School, whose students conducted oral history interviews about the struggles and sacrifices of family members. In another WHC funded projects, two years ago my Public History students and I collaborated with the Sherman Park Community Association on an oral history project and exhibit to commemorate that organization's twenty-five years of effort to keep Sherman Park integrated and vital.

The funds proposed in this bill would provide wonderful opportunities to expand humanities programming in public education. Here five proposals I would submit: 1) A summer institute for teachers that would help them develop curricula for sophisticated family and neighborhood history projects; 2) A program in which graduate students in my program and in education help school children conduct research and prepare reports and public forums about neighborhood history and problems; 3) A project that would make hundreds of historical documents about Wisconsin history available on-line to teachers and students; 4) An interactive cd-rom about Wisconsin history that would include still and moving images and a wealth of history from the State Historical Society and past issues of the Wisconsin Blue Book; and 5) A new Wisconsin public history theatre that would get children and adults involved in creating plays about local and state history.

These are just a few of the dozens of worthwhile programs the Wisconsin Humanities Council could consider if this bill is passed. Thank you for your consideration.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Wexler, James**

---

**From:** James Germain[SMTP:jgermain@execpc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 1998 8:32 AM  
**To:** Sen.Potter  
**Subject:** SB 318 Amendment #1

I was unable to attend yesterday's Senate Education Committee meeting. I would like to find out what happened to the amendment #1. Was there a vote? How did the discussion go? Did you see my e-mail re: amendment #1? Any comments?

James Germain  
President Greendale School Board  
4580 Skylark Lane  
Greendale, WI 53129  
414-421-4495  
jgermain@execpc.com

54

Dept  
Wis 38% of its Child Support

933 million owed  
9-1 billion

Wis - top 5 - total collection  
only 38%

AB 65,

most required Fed law welfare reform

receiving  
Fed \$

get bank  
do certain things

90-95% required

Wisconsin used  
top  
(~~are all of best~~)

This month  
# of people

→ 208,182

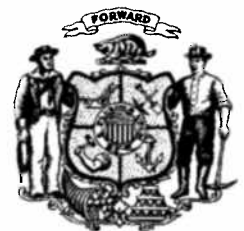
owe this month

1 billion  
\$ 590,826,149.68  
Total child support  
delinquency

~~for 579,504~~  
This month  
current child support  
~~del~~



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# Wisconsin Humanities Council

Celebrating 25 years in Wisconsin, 1972-1997

802 Regent Street • Madison, WI 53715 • (608) 262-0706 • fax (608) 263-7970

**Council Members:**

Ann Koski, *Chair*  
Neville Public Museum  
Green Bay

Gregory Robinson  
*Vice-Chair*  
Wisconsin Educational  
Communications Board  
Madison

James Cavanaugh  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
South Central Federation  
of Labor  
Madison

John Agacki  
Ashland High School

Larry Annett  
Chippewa Falls Public Schools

Susan Brewer  
UW-Stevens Point

Portia Cobb  
UW-Milwaukee

Michael Douglass  
Villa Louis  
Prairie du Chien

David Fantle\*  
Wisconsin Gas Company  
Bayside

Mary Gielow\*  
Cedar Creek Settlement  
Mequon

Lance Grahn  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee

Michelle Johnson  
UW-Milwaukee

Roberta Kuchta  
Pedersen Elementary  
Altoona

Nancy Merrill  
St. Croix Tribe  
Webster

Charlotte Meyer  
Edgewood College  
Madison

Daniel Meyer  
Consultant  
Wisconsin Rapids

Mary Moser\*  
Governor's Northern Office  
Phillips

Roby Rajan  
UW-Parkside  
Racine

Julio Rodriguez-Luis  
UW-Milwaukee

Barbara Sellett\*  
Office of Congressman  
Mark Neumann  
Janesville

James Stokes  
UW-Stevens Point

Patricia Takemoto  
UW-System  
Madison

Dianne Thompson\*  
Wintergreen Resort and  
Convention Center  
Wisconsin Dells

Linda M. Trudell\*  
LTD Graphics, Inc.  
Wauwatosa

**Executive Director:**  
Max Harris

\*Governor's Appointee

January 16, 1998

The Honorable Calvin Potter  
Room 407, 100 North Hamilton Street  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Senator Potter,

Thank you so much for co-signing one or both of the companion bills which appropriate \$250,000 for the Wisconsin Humanities Council in fiscal year 1998-99: LAB#4644-1 (now Senate Bill#406) and LAB#4468-2 (now Assembly Bill#723). I am encouraged by the level of support that the bills have already received and I look forward to testifying on their behalf before the Assembly Tourism and Recreation Committee on 27 January and the Senate Education Committee on 28 January. Every cent of state funds will be distributed in public humanities grants to museums, public libraries, schools, historical societies, neighborhood centers, and other not-for-profit organizations around the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

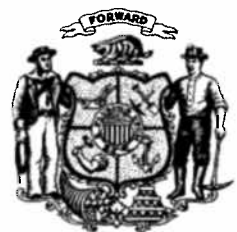
Max Harris  
Executive Director

*P.S. Paul, in your office, was very helpful in moving this bill forward. Please thank him for me.*





# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Remarks before the Senate Education Committee  
28 January 1998  
By Max Harris, Executive Director, Wisconsin Humanities Council

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of AB#723. I've spoken to most of you individually over the past few weeks, so I'll make just a few brief remarks now; and then I'll introduce you to two Wisconsin Humanities Council grant recipients.

The WHC's grant programs have, for over 25 years, supported public humanities programs throughout the state. In the past six years, we've awarded grants in all but one senate district. Grant recipients include elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, museums (large and small), public libraries, Native American tribes, historical societies, and civic groups.

Our dollars go a long way. Ordinarily, we fund no more than 50% of the cost of a program. And these programs reach large audiences. Over the last two years, the average subsidy per audience member of a WHC grant has been just 40 cents. All of our grants further the education of Wisconsin's residents, whether they are still engaged in formal study or left school years ago. Besides those you'll hear about in a moment, you may have seen last week on public television a documentary about the early history of southwest Wisconsin, called *The Rush for Grey Gold*; visited the Wisconsin Indian Cultures exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum; or seen the *Return of the Voyageurs* historical reenactment program last summer on Madeline Island. Teachers in your districts may have benefited from programs that helped them to introduce local history, Wisconsin authors, Hmong immigration stories, or a visiting art exhibit at a nearby museum into the curriculum. All these opportunities (and many more) have been made possible by WHC grants.

Why, then, if the WHC has done so well so far without state funding, should it now receive an appropriation? There are two main reasons. First, along with all other state humanities councils, the WHC's federal funding has been cut dramatically over the last five years. In 1992, we received over \$616,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Factoring in an average annual inflation rate since then of just under 3%, we would now need over \$708,000 to support what we could support then. As it is, in 1997, we received less than \$532,000, an effective annual loss of \$176,000. We've tightened our administrative budget all we can and we've lowered the ceiling on our major grants, thereby sustaining the number of grants we make but reducing our support of major museum exhibits, television documentaries, summer teachers institutes, and other large-scale programs. State funding would allow us to restore our regular grant program to full health.

Secondly, in 1997, the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission chose the WHC to run its special sesquicentennial humanities grant program. With the financial support of the Sesquicentennial Commission, we were able to award over \$421,000 to 46 different projects. Later this year, many of the communities in which these projects take place will properly decide that the interest generated in Wisconsin's rich cultural heritage should be sustained beyond 1998. By then, the Sesquicentennial Commission will no longer exist, and the WHC will once again be the only organization in the state offering grants for public humanities programs. We'll have a flood of requests that, without state funding, we'll simply and sadly have to turn down.

Wisconsin is one of the few state humanities councils that does not receive state funds. Minnesota receives \$586,000 a year from its state legislature. Connecticut receives \$1m. We have not wanted to ask until it was absolutely necessary and we do not want to ask for more than we need. We believe that time has now come and that \$250,000 in FY98-9 will meet that need.