

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Education (SC-Ed)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

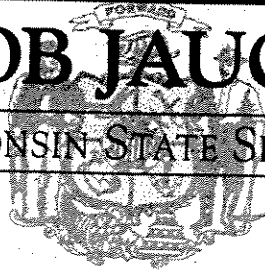
➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrSC-Ed_Misc_pt08

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

BOB JAUCH
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR



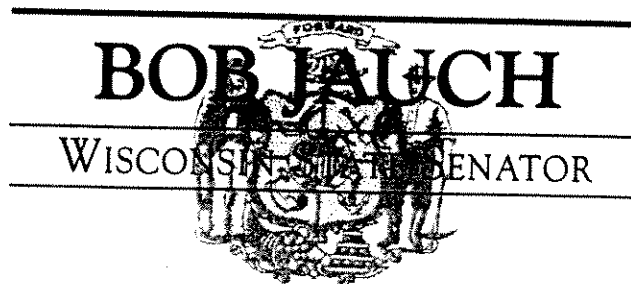
TO: Members, Senate Committee on Education

FM: Bob Jauch

DT: Sept. 25, 1997

RE: Letter to UW System

I have attached a copy of a letter I sent to UW System President Katharine Lyall regarding the System's position on SB 271. The committee voted to recommend the bill at yesterday's executive session.



September 16, 1997

President Katharine C. Lyall
University of Wisconsin System
1220 Linden Drive
Madison WI 53706

Dear Katharine:

It appears the lobbyists at the University of Wisconsin System have lost all sense of perspective. Last week, your staff person had the audacity to oppose a bill for families in need. The bill would make a person eligible for free tuition at our universities if their spouse died in the line of duty as a law enforcement officer, a corrections officer or a fire fighter. The university opposed the bill due to financial concerns, although your own fiscal note indicates that only \$7,000 would be spent on the program this year.

Let me get this straight, Katharine. That's \$7,000 out of a GPR budget of \$870 million per year. Because of concerns over .0008% of your budget, the university is opposed to help the families of public servants who died protecting out citizens. I am appalled that the university could take such a position.

The crocodile tears of your staff give me the impression that the university is facing a crisis because of this \$7,000. However, I have not heard one word of concern from the university this week over the \$10 million shortfall in compensation reserves that you face. The university is already planning to gouge students an extra \$21 million through tuition flexibility and now it may have to cut another \$10 million under the Assembly version of the budget. But the report I got from your lobbyists this week is that the Assembly budget is "absolutely great."

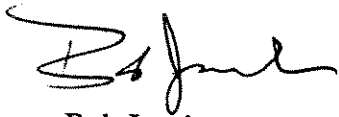
For your information, I have been working all week to negotiate budget modifications. High on my priority list has been providing funds to prevent the university system from having to eat that \$10 million. Because I haven't heard concerns about the shortfall from the university, maybe I should just seek the \$7,000 the university is worried about and forget about the \$10 million it doesn't care about.

As you know, I am the last person in the Legislature who wants to put any kind of burden on the University of Wisconsin. Unless my memory fails me, I've spent my whole career as a legislator fighting for the university. I find your lobbyist's opposition and comments on my bill illogical and unfounded. At the very least, the university systems lobbyists seem to have lost its perspective on the importance of issues.

Katharine, I know that you could not have authorized the petty and short-sighted testimony in opposition to my bill. But, frankly, I'm disgusted with the pattern of

political ignorance I've seen. I don't know who is doing the thinking around there. But if the testimony on this legislation – which is designed to help the families of public servants who have sacrificed their lives for this state – reflects the true priorities of the University of Wisconsin System, then I've been wrong in supporting the institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Jauch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bob Jauch
State Senator

cc: Board of Regents
Chancellor Erlenbach

**Testimony on Senate Bill 271
Senate Education Committee
September 10, 1997**

**Margaret S. Lewis, Acting Vice President for University Relations
University of Wisconsin System**

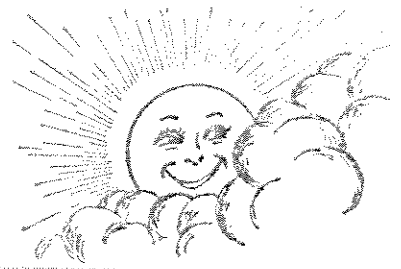
Senator Potter and members of the Committee, I am Margaret Lewis, representing the University of Wisconsin System. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on SB 271, which would provide free tuition at the UW System for the spouses of slain correctional officers, fire fighters, and law enforcement officers.

In the last session, the Legislature passed a tuition remission for children of a slain correctional officer, fire fighter or law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty. The bill as passed included a \$30,000 appropriation – \$15,000 each for UW System and for the Wisconsin Technical College System – to prevent the costs of the program being shifted to other students. This appropriation provides tuition for approximately 5 students per year. As of May 1, \$9,428 of the \$15,000 had been used. Since the equivalent of 3.5 students qualified for the remission in 1996-97, if the number of students increases by more than 1.5 in 1997-98, there would not be sufficient funds for this existing commitment.

SB 271 currently does not provide for any state funding. As worthy as the exception may be, without an appropriation, the costs of special tuition remissions raise tuition for other students. The position of the Board of Regents is that the cost of any additional remissions, which are not need based, should be accompanied by an appropriation.

I welcome any questions you may have.

9/8/97



Sen. Cal Patten,

SB271, if amended to include teachers,
will be supported by WEAC, WFT, and
IAUWP.

We hope your committee will consider such
an amendment which is, at present, not
in written form.

Thanks,

Edward J. Musik