

### State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

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Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Finance
Regarding the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget

March 24, 1999

Jane Hojan-Clark, Executive Secretary

### Wisconsin Tuition Grant and Wisconsin Higher Education Grant Funding

The two largest grant programs that serve the greatest number of needy college students throughout Wisconsin are the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) with over 9,000 recipients in 1997-98 and the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) with over 33,000 recipients in 1997-98. The WTG assists students who attend independent colleges and universities throughout the State. The WHEG provides assistance for students who attend either schools in the University of Wisconsin System or schools in the Wisconsin Technical College System. Based on data collected annually by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), the total unmet need for needy Wisconsin college students in 1997-98 after the family contribution, institutional assistance, federal assistance, and state assistance is taken into consideration is \$211,423,209. The financial assistance taken into consideration includes need based employment, loans, and grants. It is with this in mind that the Board is pleased to see that the Governor has recognized the importance of higher education and assisting students with substantial need by recommending a 6% annual increase in funding for each of the WTG and WHEG programs.

### Need for Additional State Support Talent Incentive Program Grant

It is understood that the State has a number of financial obligations. However, if funds do become available the Board requests that the Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant be increased 6% annually; similar to what is being recommended for the WTG and WHEG Programs. The TIP Grant assisted over 4,000 disadvantaged students attending colleges and universities throughout Wisconsin in 1997-98. This program has been level funded since 1994-95. It is currently funded at \$3,933,800.

### WHEG Program for Tribal College Students

The Board requested the creation of a separate grant program to assist students who attend one of the two tribal colleges in Wisconsin and therefore supports the Governor's recommendation to establish an appropriation for a Tribal College grant program to be funded from Indian gaming compact receipts. The WTG Program was expanded in 1997-98 to include Tribal Colleges to provide support, which it did achieve. However, the inclusion did not fit administratively or satisfy the intent of the WTG Program.

### WHEG Program Formula

The Board also supports the deletion of current law that specifies the method for determining grant amounts for dependent students. Eliminating this language would allow more flexibility in further developing formulas that would be equitable for both dependent and independent students under the WHEG Program. Currently the maximum WHEG a dependent student attending a University of Wisconsin institution can receive is \$1,510. The maximum grant an independent student attending a University of Wisconsin institution can receive is \$1,250. The maximum WHEG a dependent student attending a Wisconsin Technical College can receive is \$1,300. The maximum grant an independent student attending a Wisconsin Technical College can receive is \$1,050. Statutory language will still exist under S.39.435(4)(a) that gives definition for the awarding of grants under the WHEG Program. Also language will still exist under S.36.11(6)(c) and S.38.04(7m) whereby both the University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System Board will develop and submit to the Board, for its review, formulas for the awarding of grants for the upcoming year.

### **Educational Approval Board Reorganization**

The Educational Approval Board (EAB) has been attached to the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) as an Administrative Responsibility for the past one and a half years. HEAB made all of the arrangements to physically move EAB to the same location as HEAB a year and a half ago and is currently responsible for EAB's Human Resources Area, Payroll, Fiscal Area, and other miscellaneous areas. The recommended reorganization would transfer all responsibilities related to the State Approval component of EAB to HEAB; and the Veterans Education Program Approval responsibilities would transfer to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently the vast majority of staff members work either specifically with the Veterans Education Program Approval process or specifically with the State Approval process. It is not common for overlap to occur between the two areas. With the proposed change, each staff member would bring with them their expertise. Some responsibilities and procedures tied to the State Approval component are similar to those of HEAB e.g. site visits. Software programs that either are being used or are expected to be used in EAB's State Approval component area have already been implemented in various areas within HEAB. The opportunity to share technological resources under the recommended reorganization would exist. Under the budget proposal the Educational Approval Board would be replaced with a Council where the membership would remain identical to that of the current EAB. The Council would continue to provide an avenue for issues to be raised and discussed. Given the above, the transition for the State Approval component under the proposed recommendation would be a natural progression.

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### Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Finance 1999-2001 Biennial Budget Presented by Doris J. Hanson, Executive Director TEACH Wisconsin March 24, 1999

Good afternoon Chairman Burke, Chairman Gard and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to be here today on behalf of the TEACH Wisconsin Board and to share with you their strong support for the Governor's Budget for 1999-2001.

As TEACH Wisconsin completes its first full year of operation, we are proud of the successful implementation of our programs and of the progress we have made in providing new educational technology opportunities and improved services to Wisconsin's schools and libraries. As we approach the new biennium and the new century, we anticipate greater demand for TEACH benefits across each of our program areas.

With increased funding for our Telecommunications Access Program, we will be able to maintain commitments we have to schools and libraries across the state since February of 1998 and new requests which include:

- payments for 130 <u>existing</u> video and data contracts which cover 114 video links and 16 data lines; and
- funding for <u>present</u> TEACH commitments of 101 video links and 367 data lines.

With increased funding, we will be able to cover the costs to install approximately 117 new video links and 190 new data lines which are being requested for 1999-2001. These new investments will total an additional \$10 million in funding for telecommunications access in public schools, public libraries, technical colleges, private schools, private colleges and CESAs.

Most of the telecommunications access projects we have completed, as well as those scheduled for installation, are for those who were ready and waiting for TEACH programs to be made available. These are the schools and libraries equipped with existing technologies and supportive training personnel and program staff. As these groups continue to advance and progress, it is time for TEACH to turn its attention to those with the greatest need—those schools and libraries in poorer or rural areas—such as Pecatonica and Elroy. In districts such as these, there are little or no available resources to support planning or developing information technology. And as my staff will attest, my crusade at TEACH for the next two years will be to bridge the widening gap between the technological "haves" and "have-nots."

In addition to increased funding in TEACH program areas, such as Block Grants and Competitive Training Grants, this budget includes statutory language changes relative to the current TEACH Wiring Loan Program. Under the new language, this program will be re-entitled the "Educational Technology Infrastructure Financial Assistance Program," which characterizes the financial assistance to schools as 50% loan and 50% grant. By re-defining the 50% of the forgiven portion of the loan as a grant, school districts will no longer count that portion of the assistance toward their total debt levels and it will relieve unnecessary accounting and state and federal tax difficulties.

Another change in the budget reflects a TEACH Board recommendation to remove the Public Service Commission (PSC) administrative functions relating to TEACH. The PSC will continue to administer the Universal Service Fund which assesses moneys to fund the telecommunication access program. This change aligns all necessary administrative functions within TEACH itself. The TEACH Board asserted that, with the necessary requirements to implement its program, it is critical that TEACH be authorized to administer the programs for which it is held accountable. The rule in place, under which TEACH will operate, will be grandfathered in.

Implemented in February 1998, the TEACH Board devoted months to the development, formulating and defining of policies and procedures; constructing program forms and applications; and distributing information about TEACH at statewide meetings and through written publications. In just a little over one year, TEACH has accomplished:

- \$62 million in TEACH block grants has been distributed to Wisconsin school districts;
- over 100 TEACH-funded video links and nearly 400 data lines have been installed in schools and libraries statewide;
- 96 Fast Start Wiring Loans, totaling \$25 million. Now we are processing Standard Start Wiring Loan requests for another \$10 million, excluding a \$15 million loan for Milwaukee Public Schools.
- in the library loan program, we processed 4 applications, totaling \$472,000.

To assist the schools and libraries with application for federal E-Rate program discounts, TEACH is representing Wisconsin as the state's consortium, compiling some 911 eligible projects to be funded by the Schools and Libraries Corporation at \$37 million. As a result, TEACH will receive federal money from WBAA to be placed in TEACH's federal account.

In addition, TEACH will save an estimated \$27,000 in telecommunications access annually by eliminating the WBAA cost of \$9.00 per month for billing individual schools and libraries for their monthly video and data line service. The Department of Administration is assisting TEACH in managing this billing system.

To advise TEACH in the various areas of educational and information technology, I have established two ad hoc committees which meet on a monthly basis. The Ad

Hoc Educational Technology Committee consists of information technology personnel from the Department of Administration, the UW and Technical Colleges Systems, private colleges and schools, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (WECB), and the private sector. This committee will be suggesting the best way for Wisconsin to implement information technology plans and business plans and to suggest the type of technologies that may be used in various educational applications across the state.

A Collaboration Committee has also been established, which is comprised of Wisconsin's leaders in education including Katherine Lyall, Ed Chin, John Benson, Rolf Wegenke, and Thomas Fletemeyer.

To keep information flowing in and out of TEACH, agency staff has developed a Web Site and a data base, each including updated and complete information on our programs.

In looking back on TEACH's exciting first year, I reflect on achievements and challenges which have taught us much about the work that is yet to be done. Mistakes have been made. Will there be more? Certainly. A pioneer initiative of TEACH's size and scope is bound to have new program problems. Among other educational technology programs in the nation, TEACH is on the cutting edge. With no other state or precedent from which to learn, and with proven success after just one year of operation, TEACH is creating the new national model.

It is my continued honor to serve under the TEACH Board which has followed and supported state statutes while proceeding in a manner of genuine professionalism and commitment. I wish to thank each of you on the committee who has been supportive of this important program. As TEACH begins its second year of operation, I ask you to continue to bear with us and to keep the questions coming.



Marquette University School of Dentistry Testimony Joint Committee on Finance March 24, 1999

Presented By
William K. Lobb, D.D.S., M.S.
Dean, Marquette University School of Dentistry

The Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD), founded in 1894, has been the major provider of dentists for the State of Wisconsin for more than a century. MUSOD has had a partnership with the State of Wisconsin for the past 25 years. MUSOD and the State of Wisconsin currently have three separate contracts: 1) Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) contract for dental education; 2) Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) grant for clinical services; 3) DHFS Bureau of Public Health grant for a pediatric dentistry program.

MUSOD is not requesting any change in the current funding level recommended in the Governor's budget. We are very grateful for the support MUSOD receives from this committee and from the State of Wisconsin.

<u>Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) Contract for Dental Education</u>
Since 1973, the State of Wisconsin has provided funding to MUSOD to support the education and training of Wisconsin residents to become dentists. Over the past 25 years, the State of Wisconsin, through the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB), has provided varying levels of support.

Since 1994, the HEAB funding has remained level: \$1.167 million annually to support Wisconsin resident tuition for a cap of 100 Wisconsin residents (an average of 25 per class). Under a contract between HEAB and MUSOD, the dental school receives \$1.167 million directly. This allows MUSOD to set a Wisconsin resident tuition rate which is \$11,670 less than the "non-Wisconsin resident" tuition rate. Current tuition rates are as follows: \$18,290/year (Wisconsin resident) and \$29,960/year (non-Wisconsin resident). Every year, the Legislative Audit Bureau conducts a thorough audit of MUSOD's admissions records to ensure that the State's funds are being used in accordance with State policy; every audit has been favorable.

Each year, MUSOD has admitted more than the cap of 100 Wisconsin residents, and each year the dental school, out of its own funds, subsidizes the tuition of those Wisconsin residents above the cap (an average of 9 additional Wisconsin residents per year). Marquette does this because those Wisconsin residents are better applicants, and we cannot justify admitting an out-of-state resident that is less qualified over a more qualified Wisconsin resident. Over the past 10 years, MUSOD has subsidized Wisconsin resident tuition at a cost of approximately \$600,000.

As MUSOD develops its curriculum and facility to meet the dental needs of the 21st Century, much deliberation has been given to several issues regarding dental workforce. For example, is an average of 70 students per entering class the "right" amount? Nationally, that's the average, and we believe that the "right" amount is between 70 - 80 students per entering class. Another question deals with the percentage of Wisconsin residents per class. As stated above, MUSOD has about 25 Wisconsin residents per entering class of 70. It might be more appropriate to increase the number of Wisconsin residents to represent closer to 50% of the class instead of about 30%. However, that is a public policy decision that needs to be made by the State of Wisconsin, in conjunction with the dental practice and health care community.

Currently, MUSOD is participating in a dental workforce group in conjunction with the Wisconsin Dental Association, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Care Financing, representatives from the Dental Hygiene profession, and the Consortium for Primary Care in Wisconsin. This group's mission is to take steps to assure there is a workforce necessary to continue to address the changing oral health needs of Wisconsin's citizens. MUSOD is particularly interested in determining the number of practitioners needed for Wisconsin and the changing nature of dental services provided in Wisconsin.

### Department of Health and Family Services Grant for Clinical Services

The Department of Health and Family Service (DHFS) provides \$2.8 million annually to MUSOD to support the provision of dental services by the dental school in clinics located in the city of Milwaukee, Waushara County, and Monroe County. In addition, MUSOD provides dental services to inmates who reside in the Pre-Release Correctional Centers in Milwaukee County.

During the last fiscal year (July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998), MUSOD treated 14,448 patients at five different clinics: Johnston Community Health Center (Milwaukee), Isaac Coggs Community Health Center (Milwaukee), Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center (Cashton), Family Health Medical and Dental Clinic (Wautoma), and MUSOD's clinic located on the campus. These clinics handled 57,405 patient visits.

All of these dental clinics treat patient in need of necessary care regardless of the their ability to pay. For all of the clinics combined, 60% of the patients pay in cash based on a sliding fee scale, 15% are participants in the Medicaid program, 15% are participants in the Milwaukee Medicare Waiver program, and the remaining 10% have private insurance.

Of all the patients' services through MUSOD clinics, approximately 50% voluntarily chose to report their income levels. Of the those reporting on their income levels, 59% were below 200% of the federal poverty level and 41% were above 200% of the federal poverty level.

MUSOD's clinical fees are approximately 50% of the usual and customary fees of a private dental practice. In addition, MUSOD also provides approximately \$80,000 each year in free, unreimbursed dental services.

During the last biennial budget, the Joint Committee on Finance approved an additional \$500,000 per year to support MUSOD's rural clinic sites. Although state funds were not provided until 1997, MUSOD has been providing dental services in Waushara County since June of 1993 and in Monroe County since January of 1996. It is clear that without MUSOD, many people would have no access to dental care. These rural clinic programs serve a dual purpose: first, to provide educational opportunities for dental students to treat a diverse underserved patient base; and second, to assist local community health centers in bringing dental health care to their geographic areas.

Many legislators have asked what MUSOD can do to help increase access to Medicaid eligible patients and others. The current statutory language limits MUSOD to specific counties. We believe it would provide more opportunities for MUSOD to help more communities if the statutory language were amended to include all underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin. This is not to imply that we would discontinue our participation in the communities in which we currently serve. As long as MUSOD is welcome – since MUSOD is a guest in those health centers – MUSOD will work to ensure continuity of care.

Marquette's dental school is not the primary solution to the State's Medicaid access problem. However, MUSOD can certainly play a significant role in helping to address this multi-faceted problem. One role MUSOD plays is to educate and train oral health care providers who have ample opportunities to treat and gain exposure to the needs of the underserved. Another aspect relates to patient education concerning the value and necessity of regular dental care; this has been shown to be directly linked to overall health and wellness. Just as immunizations are important to person's health, so is dental health care.

The Legislative Audit Bureau annually conducts a thorough audit of MUSOD's financial records to ensure that the State's funds are being used in accordance with State policy; every audit has been favorable.

### **DHFS Bureau of Public Health Pediatric Dentistry Program**

The DHFS Bureau of Public Health requested that MUSOD establish a community outreach project known as the Pediatric Dentistry Program to provide dental services and dental sealants for children living on the south side of Milwaukee. This program is housed at the Johnston Community Health Center. DHFS provides a grant of \$60,500 annually for this project.

The first year of funding was used to develop and equip the project. Expenses incurred related to the purchase of major portable equipment (such as a portable dental chair, portable dental x-ray unit, portable dental light, etc.), dental sealant materials including curing lights, disposable supplies, hand instruments, and sterilization equipment. Dental faculty developed the programmatic components of the Pediatric Dentistry Program and advertised the project's services in key community locations, churches, and schools.

We are currently in the second year of funding for the Pediatric Dentistry Program. Marquette dental faculty and students are visiting primary schools to provide dental exams to children and to provide sealants. Children who participate in local Head Start programs are also part of this target population. MUSOD expects to treat hundreds of students in primary schools in the area.

This concludes our testimony. Marquette University School of Dentistry is proud of the work we have been able to accomplish through a strengthened and ongoing partnership with the State of Wisconsin. We look forward to continuing to build upon this strong base to serve Wisconsin's oral health care needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Thank you.

### **Testimony to Joint Committee on Finance**

### Katharine C. Lyall

### March 24, 1999

I want to thank the Committee for this opportunity to explain what these biennial budget recommendations mean for the UW System, our students, faculty, and the future of Wisconsin.

This budget is the first of the New Millennium – it sets the stage for our next 100 years together.

After a decade of belt tightening, every UW campus is faced with urgent needs to sustain the basics of educational quality: to restore neglected library resources; to address a severe shortage of trained workers to support our instructional technology infrastructure; to provide competitive compensation for our faculty and staff; and to improve career and academic advising so students can plan better and graduate sooner.

The truth is, our ability to compete and our standard of excellence are beginning to fray. Like all parts of government, we're leaner and smarter than we were 10 years ago. But in some key areas, we're digging into the bone. I want to make six points about this budget:

- 1. It will take your strong support of this budget to begin to reverse this slippage. In recent years, state budget challenges have kept state GPR increases for our students at the bottom of the Midwestern states. State support per UW student, which was at the national average just four years ago, has now dropped \$800 per student below average support nationally. We have begun a targeted effort to close that gap to ensure that the students now on our campuses and those who follow them receive the very best education.
- 2. At the same time we are striving to maintain quality, access, and affordability for <u>traditional</u> students, we are also being asked to serve a growing number of <u>non-traditional</u> learners: adults, working professionals, K-12 students and teachers, and a growing array of specialized new audiences anxious to tap into the UW's knowledge and expertise.

Our ability to meet these new educational needs of Wisconsin's 21st century learners is tied directly to the <u>management flexibilities</u> included in the Governor's budget. These new management tools include:

\* Removing the \$12,000 cap that currently discourages UW faculty from collaborating across the System to provide summer school and other programs.

\* Enabling us to spend revenues earned from these non-traditional clients to serve them promptly and effectively. The continuing appropriation authority and the modest 1% position flexibility will let us do this.

The Governor's proposal gives us the tools and challenges us to show what more flexible management of the UW System can do for the state. And it holds us accountable for the results through the regular budget process. In two years, we will be back here -- I urge you to give us this chance to show you how well this can work for the state.

3. I want to underscore the importance of <u>competitive compensation</u> for our faculty and staff. Between now and the year 2004, up to 25% (1,600) of our faculty will retire. These positions will become vacant <u>on the top of</u> the 550 positions lost to the '95-97 base cut.

As we seek to replace these essential educators, we know that we will be in tough competition for the best and the brightest minds with many other states, which are also hiring to renew their faculty ranks. The requested 5.2% pay plans for each of the next two years would just bring our salaries to market levels by 2001. It is also critical that the state fully fund the 1999-01 pay plan on the traditional GPR/fee split so that we do not face a repeat of this biennium/s requirement to fund part of the state share from our base.

I recognize that in the current fiscal environment your decisions do not come easily. However, a 5.2% pay plan funded with the traditional split will ensure that educational quality and service to our students and the state are maintained, and it will help ensure that affordability is maintained for Wisconsin resident undergraduates.

4. The commitment made in this budget to <u>sustaining UW-Madison</u> as a first-quality research university is both visionary and innovative. A partnership that matches \$200 million in private donations with \$57 million in GPR and fees over the next four years is an unprecedented innovation in higher education. It is truly a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wisconsin Idea ... one that will keep this state on the cutting edge of developments in biotechnology, genetics, agriculture, and human medical advancements.

The Governor's budget provides \$1 million to establish an office at WHEDA to help market the developments coming out of UW labs so that Wisconsin can benefit directly from these brain products. The proposal under consideration at SWIB to create a \$50 million venture capital fund to invest in Wisconsin breakthrough ideas would help to assure that we exploit our best ideas here, instead of exporting them to firms in other states.

- 5. Although it is not included in our budget, I am deeply grateful for the recommendation that the <u>WHEG financial aid program</u> for UW students be increased 6% in each year of the biennium. This will go a long way towards ensuring that able but needy students continue to have access to a UW education. More than half of all UW students are eligible for financial aid and depend on this to keep college affordable.
- 6. Finally, I hope that you might be able to improve the budget package in one important respect. Earlier this year, the UW System and DPI collaborated on submitting coordinated requests to enable more minority and disadvantaged K-12 students to participate in pre-college programs across the state. We know these programs work -- their participants graduate from high school and go on to post-secondary training in significantly higher numbers. They deliver success.

The Governor's budget proposes funding in the second year of the UW budget but omits any funding for the DPI pre-college financial aid program which helps many students attend our summer programs. Our pre-college programs will reach more students if the financial aid piece can be expanded in the first year of the biennium. Similarly, including the Lawton and AOP programs within the 6% financial aid increases proposed by the Governor would also strengthen educational opportunity for these students.

The Governor's budget recommendations move the University forward in a number of high-need areas. The recommended biennial increase is clearly our best "starting point" in a decade whose earlier years were marked by budget freezes, lapses, and significant base cuts.

Right now, excluding pay plan, the budget proposes a GPR increase of 2.7% over the next two years targeted to the priorities laid out in our plan to sustain educational quality, maintain access, and improve efficiency.

Tuition increases associated with the Governor's proposal (excluding pay plan) would average 2.1% annually at all institutions except UW-Madison, where increases would average 4.8% annually as part of the Madison Initiative. This is before any pay plan, so actual tuition cannot be estimated until we know JCOER action on the pay plan later this spring.

In closing, I want to recognize that the legislature faces tough choices every year. However, the UW System has been queued up at the back of the line for nearly a decade. The poll Regent Orr referred to in his testimony also includes a finding that, given the choice, Wisconsin residents say they'd rather see more money invested in the UW System than in every other area of state spending

except K-12 education. More than prisons. More than road construction. More than welfare reform.

The poll also found that when asked what the UW's highest priority should be now and five years from now, 70% consistently said "preserving quality."

It is my commitment to ensure that today's high school freshman will get the same quality education as his older brother or sister who may be a college freshman today at UW-Green Bay, or a transfer student from UW-Washington County about to finish the junior year at UW-Stevens Point. I am also committed to expanding our services to the growing number of non-traditional students who count on us to maintain a license, upgrade their skills, or qualify for their next job.

I urge your support for this budget which will determine whether we can deliver this bright future for our young people and for our state. Thank you.

# Statement by University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents President San W. Orr, Jr. to the Joint Committee on Finance

### March 24, 1999

Co-chairs Burke and Gard, and members of the Joint Committee on Finance. Thank you for the invitation to appear before you, on behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Regents, to underscore the importance – and the urgency – of this budget for University of Wisconsin System students, faculty, and staff.

I believe the UW System is Wisconsin's greatest hope for continued economic success and its future quality of life. Through vital research that benefits Wisconsin and the world, through an ever-increasing number of important partnerships with Wisconsin business and industry, and by the sheer volume of capable graduates who enter the state's work force each year ... the UW System is crucial to our success as a state and a people.

A new statewide poll quantifies this sentiment:

- Seventy-three percent of Wisconsin residents believe the UW System is a critical part of the economy today, and deserving of additional state support.
- And more than 80 percent say the University system should be investing more money in UW bio-technology and computer science because they see that kind of research and academic training as critical to producing new jobs in the next century.

Clearly, the UW System is one of Wisconsin's greatest assets ... and deserving of the support it needs to continue moving our state forward.

I want to use my time today to highlight four specific areas:

- First ... the need to improve the depleted condition of our UW libraries statewide;
- Second ... the role of the Madison Initiative in maintaining our flagship campus as one of the top public research universities in the nation.
- Third ... the need to recruit quality replacements for our retiring faculty and staff.
- And fourth ... the value of a proposed management flexibility that will allow every UW institution to stay competitive, maintain quality, better serve students, and meet new demands in a timely and efficient manner.

I will also offer a "reality check" on the topic of tuition and affordability, in response to questions that have been raised in recent media reports.

#### Libraries

Governor Thompson has designated \$7.3 million to begin rebuilding depleted collections at UW libraries. These funds are greatly needed to restore the print and electronic database collections at our libraries. An up-to-date library is the heart of a first-rate university. And, in Wisconsin, the UW library system also serves K-12 schools, public libraries, and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions through an on-line catalog.

Imagine trying to write a term paper, or to stay on the cutting edge as a faculty member, when the key information in your field (whether in print or electronic form) is missing from the library. These cutbacks parallel an explosion in available information resources and an increasing demand by UW and non-UW library users.

The proposed GPR funds will be used for three purposes: to restore the print collection through coordinated acquisitions of books, journals, and other documents; to improve resource sharing and delivery between institutions; and to purchase statewide licenses for electronic and digital library materials.

UW-Madison libraries director Ken Frazier recently suggested that library and information resources are as valuable to the state at the close of the century, as natural resources were at the beginning. I believe that's a fair characterization. Let us not delay any longer in making this important investment in our future.

### The Madison Initiative

The Regents are grateful that Governor Thompson has supported a proposal to build a new partnership between the state and UW-Madison's alumni and donors. In this partnership, the university will seek a \$200 million commitment from private donors and other sources – to match a four-year, \$57 million investment by the state and students.

With this new investment, UW-Madison will be able to recruit and retain outstanding faculty; attract the best and brightest students; and help Wisconsin maintain its competitiveness in the global economy.

This plan opens the door for UW-Madison to meet its potential in keeping Wisconsin a world leader in biotechnology and medical research and the commercial applications that bring great benefit to our state and workforce.

With your support of this new partnership, UW-Madison's performance as a world-class university will be placed on solid footing for the 21st century.

### Replacing Retiring Faculty and Staff

We should all be worried about how we're going to recruit and retain the next generation of faculty. The excellence that typifies UW-Madison and every other UW institution is tied directly to the quality, performance, and leadership of our faculty and academic staff. Twenty-four percent of the Systemwide faculty will retire in the next several years. The quality of their replacements will determine the quality of a UW education over the next century.

Recruitment of new faculty, as well as retention of our best and brightest faculty is becoming an increasingly significant challenge. At present, when adjusted for cost of living, the average salary for a full professor at UW-Madison ranks last among 11<sup>th</sup> peer institutions. At UW-Milwaukee, it's 13<sup>th</sup> among 15 peers, and our comprehensive universities rank 22<sup>nd</sup> among 32 peer institutions.

Competitive compensation continues to be an urgent need as we strive to hire a significant number of replacement faculty across the System. The 5.2 percent pay plan requested by the Board of Regents would just bring our faculty salaries to the average of our peers by the end of 2001. We should be aiming higher, but we cannot afford to do less.

It is also essential that the state fully fund the next pay plan, so that tuition does not have to carry a disproportionate share of this need.

### Flexibility

Every UW institution can do a better job of serving additional students in new and quickly changing ways, but we need your support for a new management tool to do this.

The UW System has made a commitment to expand service to adult students, to move aggressively into distance education, and to encourage every campus to create customized and collaborative programs that better meet the educational needs of traditional students and Wisconsin businesses and professions.

Continuing Appropriation of tuition revenue would enable UW campuses to spend tuition revenues as earned, to respond rapidly to a changing body of knowledge and student demand for specific programs. It is a just-in-time approach for the delivery of courses. This is a modern management tool employed by business, and every other premier university system in the country.

Currently, the UW System operates under a specific tuition appropriation that effectively caps the total amount of tuition revenue that can be spent in a given year. What this means, for example, is that we cannot respond quickly to the need for a new distance learning course for working professionals – even if those

students or their employers are willing to pay full cost -- without returning to the legislature for prior approval.

The demands for our services are changing much faster than a two-year appropriation process can respond to. Continuing Appropriation is essential if we are to meet the needs of working adults in Wisconsin.

Continuing Appropriation is <u>not</u> a tool to raise regular tuition. Recent media reports suggesting that this management tool would drive sharp increases in tuition are incorrect. The Board of Regents has committed to no double-digit increases in regular tuition. We will keep that commitment.

### **Tuition and Affordability**

In recent public conversations about tuition, one crucial fact has gone unreported. It is this: throughout the 1990s, the UW System has continued to serve students across the income spectrum. Although tuition has risen, it has remained among the lowest in the Midwest. Thirty-four percent of UW students come from families with incomes of \$40,000 or less. Sixty percent come from families with less than \$55,000 of family income. That percentage has not changed over the decade.

This fact underscores the Board of Regents' long-standing commitment to keeping tuition increases for Wisconsin residents as moderate and predictable as possible. It also points to the importance of maintaining financial aid grants that track tuition increases for our needlest students.

As you know, the Governor's budget includes proposed increases in the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant program of 6 percent each year. We urge your support of the Governor's recommendation.

Nonetheless, the level of tuition for resident undergraduates will continue to be determined primarily by the level of the state's GPR investment in the UW system. The Continuing Appropriation authority proposed in this budget is not intended to raise regular tuition. Rather, it is needed to enable our institutions to respond promptly to new demands for UW services coming from non-traditional, working adults who need "just-in-time" coursework in convenient times and places, and from other students who seek more summer school courses so that they can accelerate their programs.

These new markets are being captured increasingly by out-of-state proprietary enterprises that charge several times what a similar UW course would cost. We should and can be doing a better job of serving non-traditional students, but we need the continuing authority to enable us to spend the tuition revenues paid by these clients to serve them promptly and effectively.

Regents fully agree with accountability to taxpayers. But we believe this should be accomplished through the biennial budget process, rather than by outmoded and cumbersome committee procedures. Other Midwestern states moved to this flexibility long ago; it's time for Wisconsin to do so now.

Finally, I would observe that in the last biennium, the state did not fully fund its own share of the pay plan, forcing agencies, including the UW, to pick up this cost from other revenues.

The most important thing you could do to help contain regular tuition costs for 1999-01 would be to ensure that the state pay plan is adequate and that the state fully funds its share. This would ensure that we can replace our retiring faculty with people of comparable quality, and thus maintain the academic standing of our System.

In closing, I urge your support for this budget proposal ... it is a good one for the UW System and will help us keep this a quality asset for the State into the next century.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

Under the Governor's recommendations, \$24,811,100 annually would be provided for expenditures of TANF funding for programs administered by other agencies. The following table summarizes these expenditures.

Item	1999-00	2000-01
Head Start Supplement	\$9,900,000	\$9,900,000
Aid to Milwaukee Public Schools	7,570,000	7,570,000
Brownfields	5,000,000	5,000,000
Adolescent Services and Pregnancy Prevention		
Services	1,806,400	1,806,400
The Badger Challenge Program	332,700	332,700
Early Identification of Pregnancy Prevention - Outreach and		
Case Management	100,000	100,000
State Recruiter Position	52,000	52,000
Literacy Advocate	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	\$24,811,100	\$24,811,100

1221 Wilson Ave. Menomonie WI, 54806 March 29, 1999

To: The Joint Finance Committee Wisconsin Legislature,

Dear Committee Members,

I am currently a Junior at Northland College, in Ashland, Wisconsin, and my major is Conflict and Peace Management, with an emphasis in History. When I heard about Northland's unique programs, for example, outdoor education, environmental education and especially their peace studies program in which I am currently involved; I was immediately drawn to the school. As a student at Northland, I have had many experiences that have changed my life and taught me many things. But those experiences come at a cost; money has always been a factor as to whether or not I could register for the next year. That is why the \$2,300 Wisconsin Tuition Grant is so important to me. Without it I would have to struggle for cash even more than I am doing already. The grant is a great help, because then I do not have to juggle between thirty hours of work which would interfere with my educational goals. With this grant I can put more time into my studies. I am grateful that with its help I am able to attend a unique and exciting school, one that I love and look forward to calling my Alma Mater.

Sinceraly,

Erin Katherine Galetka

March 29, 1999

Joint Finance Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I was informed recently that your committee would be meeting soon. I wanted to take a moment and express my gratitude for the grant funding that you have made available to Northland College. I am a husband and father of five children. I was injured some time ago and have been through two back surgeries. I found myself in a position of needing to return to school to finish my degree. It would have been impractical to uproot my family and move somewhere else to attend school. Commuting from Ashland to Superior everyday would have been very difficult as well. It would have been very painful for my back to drive the 100+ miles every day and then to sit in class on top of that.

The grant I received from the State of Wisconsin made a tremendous difference in my being able to return to school and finish my degree. I thank you for making these funds available to schools like Northland College and I hope you will be able to continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

William McPherson, Northland College Student

I am currently as sophomore at Nurthland College in Hohland, WI. I attended Wavkesha South H.S., but did not graduate from there, I had to get my H.S.E.D. at Milw. Area Tech College. HHEr I got my degree I didn't know What I wanted to do so I worked for two years. Through an outdoor trip in Texas I figured out that I wanted to work outdoors and go to school so I could further my education and knowledge of business and outdoor recreation. I chose Northland because it has both, but is unfortunately rather expensive. I am able to attend this fine college because I and others recieve Wisconsin Tuttion Grants. I am so thankful I recieve this grant , because it has done its small part in helping me get on the right track. It is also good to know that the State is willing to help people that want to better themselves and in turn help others. Please take my letter in consideration when deciding on the issue of cutting back on these grants, it would be a shame if they were cut.

> Sincerely, Mars Jonness

Sam currently a binor at Northland College in my find semuter. I will be receiving a two degrees in both Buychology and in Business administration, I would not have been able to achieve this without the help of the Viscorian tention thant. It is of great concern that I write this letter, for I have been able to possible cut-backs in aid that this grant will be eleminated. This is not a good iclea. This grant makes it possible for people lile mappely to get an education, due to this grant I plan on furthering my education in UW-Waitensten meet year in the School Psychology program. I have you for your time and consideration. Give Kiels a chance and they won't disappoint.

Sencerely, Sundale

To whom it may concern,

I am a Butternut Idigh School graduate who wanted to get a small school education that was close to home. This is why I chose Northland College in asland where I'm a junior and a member of the men's basketball team. Unfortunately, Northland is a private college and it is very expensive to go here. Suckely for me and a lot of other students, we receive a Wisconsin Juition Spant. If it wasn't for this grant, we wouldn't be able to go to school here. Please do not cut this form of aid, many people depend on it.

P.S. Due to the short notice, I was unable to be videotaped. Please accept this letter!

Thanks for your time, Sincerely a concerned student

Pete Smith

### Testimony to the Joint Finance Committee March 30, 1999

As director of Northern Waters Library Service, I am here to talk about funding for library systems and about how easy it is to take the best things in life for granted until it is too late. Libraries are one of the things that we are taking for granted. Our governor is taking us for granted and has made a statement about the value of libraries and library systems by giving them a zero increase in funding for the next biennium. Zero increase in funding on the heels of years of eroding funding. I find this unconscionable. This is the information age. Wisconsin residents, including those in northern Wisconsin, must have equal access to information.

Let me give you an example. We are in the process of planning an automation project within the eight county area of our library service. This is not cutting edge use of technology, such systems are in place in most library systems and linking such systems on a statewide basis is included in the state's strategic plan for library technology. The total cost of our project is over \$500,000. How do we afford this? The start-up cost per library in some cases is greater than half the library's annual budget. That means the system must provide support and leadership for this project. Will this be possible on a zero percent increase for library systems? I don't think so unless we make major cutbacks and downsize our staff. Downsizing Wisconsin libraries...what a legacy—where are our priorities?

Let me give you an illustration to help you see what is happening. M& I bank has a branch in Ashland and several throughout Wisconsin. Do you think that the owners would go along with having the Ashland branch run on technology from the seventies? How effective would they be if they did not have ATM machines, were not networked, could not do electronic transfers? It is a ridiculous notion, yet that is how our northern Wisconsin libraries are functioning now. This has to change.

At this time, every library in our system area has Internet access, but in many cases, they have only one computer to serve an entire municipality. And the municipalities are among the most economically disadvantaged in the state. The library system must be able to assist these libraries in technology, in training and in accessing high-speed connections through TEACH subsidized lines.

It is time for change, but we need fair support of library systems to make changes. In addition to supporting an increase in library system aids, a companion piece is SB 66. This bill would change the equation of how library system aids are distributed. This is a change that is long overdue and which would directly benefit our area. We must have this support to be able to continue our work. The total circulation of the NWLS area libraries has grown over 33% in the past ten years. This is testimony to the terrific work our libraries are doing. Our state's economy is robust. I urge you to put funding for library systems and for Senate Bill 66 way up where it belongs on the priority list for this state. Libraries will not be able to continue meeting the growing information needs of Wisconsin residents without adequate support.

Do not take quality library service in Wisconsin for granted.

Thank you Joan Airoldi Sen. Boh Jauch Rep. Cary Sterman

Ser Brier Bucke + Jant Committee on Finance

Notes for Joint Finance Committee Listening Session: CESA 12, March 30, 1999

From: Bob Lambert, District Administrator, Solon Springs School District Re: Governor's budget proposal to delete 63% handicapped education costs.

K-12 = 370 Students 48.5% = Free/Reduced Lunch

I wish to express serious concern about the Governor's budget proposal to delete statutory language which requires the state to pay 63% of handicapped education costs and freezing the reimbursement at its current approximate 35% level.

Currently, costs for handicapped eductaion must fall within the parameters of the revenue limits. Additional cost that exceed reimbursements through categorical aid and the regugular per pupil costs must be borne by the district through budgetary displacements. That is, making reductions in other parts of the budget to compensate for the shortage of funds which must be used to provide services for the disabled in order to remain compliant with the revenue limit statute.

Let me give you a some of examples which support my argument on this issue:

- 1. This year in Solon Springs, we had to provide an additional \$34,000 in the budget to serve one student with EEN. Less the state reimbursement at 35%, left us with having to reduce other needed items in our already excessively lean budget by \$22,000. In order to remain within the revenue limits for the 1998-1999 budget, we had to make budget cuts of nearly \$250,000.
- 2. This year, another disabled student requires a full time one-on-one aide with special medical training to assist a child who requires oxygen 100% of the time. The net additional expenditure was \$9,000. More dollars displaced from the regular budget to provide needed services.
- 3. Overall, since the 1992-1993 school term when revenue limits were enacted, we have had add 1.8 FTE certified EEN teachers and 2.7 FTE teacher's aides to provide needed services; a net additional cost to the district of over \$78,000 annually. Combined, the additional expenditures caused \$100, 431 in budgetary displacements.

+ \$17,500 EEN Transportation Costs = \$118,000

Budget displacements are causing an overall detrioration in facilities, programs, resources and services for students. Dollars displaced from textbooks, reduced non-EEN staff, classroom, staff dev., supplies, maintenance, technology and other sources supply the additional costs for mandated special education services.

Quality of overall adventing

Our school board was presented a resolution to exceed the revenue limits for operating expenses, but are reluctant at this time to take the question to the taxpayers in this economically depressed region of the state.

As a result, I implore the Joint Finance Committee to consider either subsidizing the additional costs of providing mandated special education or, at a minimum, exempting the additional costs for special education from the revenue statutes. Thank you.

Limit

10 Lombert. 3/30/1999

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### Joint Finance Committee Ashland, March 30, 1999

My name is Carol Shaddy.

I am a parent of a student and two graduates of South Shore High School in Port Wing. I live in Cornucopia. I am completing my sixth year on the School Board.

I am appearing before you to describe the negative impact that the current method of funding schools via revenue caps is having on small school districts.

The School Board has been struggling to maintain quality programs in the face of declining enrollment. Enrollment is declining due to smaller entering kindergarten classes compared to larger graduating classes. The smaller classes deserve the same quality education as their older siblings, cousins, and friends received.

The School Board has faced up to personnel cuts in 1996 and 1997. We have streamlined operations. This year the community was convulsed in the agony of closing a satellite elementary school in the Oulu community. We have done everything possible to reduce costs without gutting our educational programs.

The irony is that we have the formula for success that the State and DPI are struggling to achieve in other areas of the state; we have a safe school environment with small class size and great parent involvement. We have dedicated and exceptional teachers. We deliver a quality product: my daughter was valedictorian four years ago and a National Merit Scholar, one of three members of her graduating class recognized in the National Merit Corporation, from little South Shore High School. All but two of her class went on to post-secondary education.

The idea of funding education on a per pupil basis may work in some urban areas, but it is destroying the fabric of our rural communities, not just here, but across the state. I urge you to support this year the 75 % hold harmless clause for enrollment declines, but MORE: I urge you repeal the revenue caps and QEO's (Don't further cripple us financially by lifting the lid on teacher salaries and maintaining revenue caps) and work toward a more stable base of funding education.

## testimony of Clendon Gustafson, Re: school Financing 3/30/99

Northern Wisconsin is a great place to live and raise a family. When I see the news reports of violence in the schools and violence in the cities, I am very thankful for being in a rural place, such as Northern Wisconsin, where I don't have to worry about such things, at least not to the extent that people in some urban areas have to.

I am a product of rural northern Wisconsin. I was born in an Ashland hospital. I grew up on the shores of Lake Superior. I attended elementary and high school in the South Shore School District, in Port Wing, Wisconsin. I graduated from college with bachelor's and Masters' Degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Superior. I now teach junior high students and coach basketball at South Shore High School. I wouldn't trade my roots for anyone's.

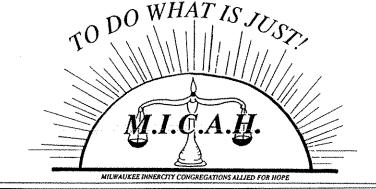
My family has long-standing ties to this northern Wisconsin community as well. Both of my parents were born and raised in Port Wing and graduated from South Shore High School. My dad was a lumberjack. My mom still works in our school district, under the Wisconsin Green Thumb program. My grandfather was on the school board in the 1930s. He was a dairy farmer. My dad coached little league. My brothers and sisters live in and work in northern Wisconsin. I married my high school classmate, a girl from Oulu, whose parents also graduated from our school district here. We have two little daughters, ages 2 and 4. In the future, I would like my daughters to attend South Shore High School and help South Shore win a state championship in basketball someday. I would love for my daughters to graduate from the same high school that my wife and I did.

We who live in northern Wisconsin are for the most part, positive and productive people. We turn out students who make Wisconsin look good on standardized school achievement tests. We turn out students who make Wisconsin look good on the ACT. We turn out students who make Wisconsin look good in the workplace. In short, we are good for Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, because of the way that our schools are funded, we in northern Wisconsin may be becoming an endangered species. We are experiencing declining enrollment in our district--not a lot of students each year, just a few students; but when your total high school enrollment is now and always has been right around the 100 mark, a few students mean a large percentage. We have a fairly small annual budget in our district. We have a very large operating expense, due in part to transportation costs because of our very large land area with relatively few students to populate it. Our school district is not an extravagant spender. We are lean, but determined to give our students the best education possible--and that education matches up well with any in the country--again, we make Wisconsin look good.

If there is anything that you can do in your committee to take small schools into consideration (hopefully in a good light), when it comes to financing, it would be greatly appreciated by the dedicated, hard-working people in rural areas such as ours. Let's not let Wisconsin become just another state with only urban concerns in mind. We are America's Dairy land, and dairy land implies a strong rural element. If our

district is lost, then the people here will have next to nothing, because our school is the foundation of our community. We will be forced to move to urban areas to find jobs and provide for our families. The small school will become a quaint old thing of the past, instead of the positive producer of quality people that it is today in northern Wisconsin. You people may be our only hope, and we are depending on you and the decisions you make. Please cast your vote for rural Wisconsin!



4011 W. CAPITOL DRIVE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53216, (414) 449-0805

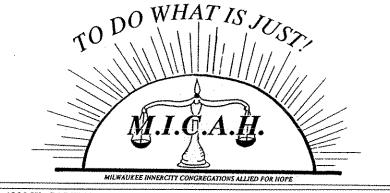
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As members of MICAH (Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope) we write to acknowledge and praise the action taken by the Joint Finance Committee regarding the expansion of the SAGE program.

We are pleased that you have seen the wisdom of investing in this program which is proven to be of benefit to our children: we believe you have made a wise investment which will yield great returns for years to come. And, we are pleased that you ensured that there would be equity in the program: Milwaukee's children will be treated the same as children in the rest of the state, for the benefit of all.

We believe that your actions on this matter were just and wise.

Thank you.



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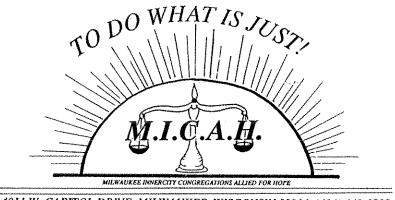
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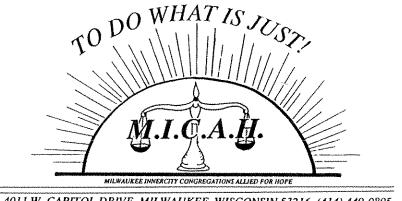
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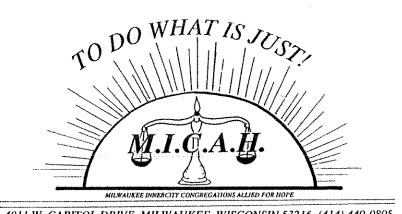
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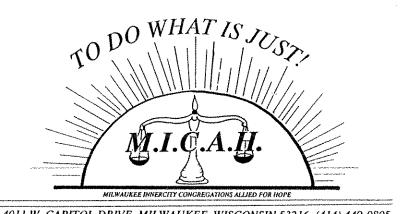
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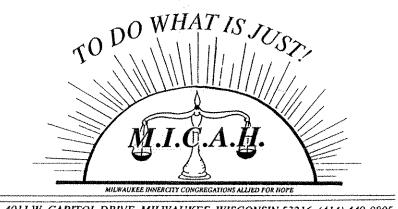
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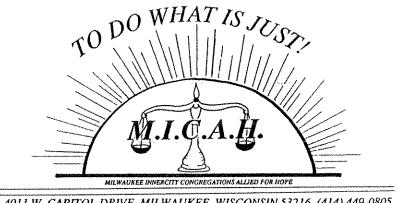
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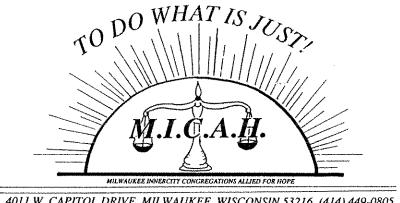
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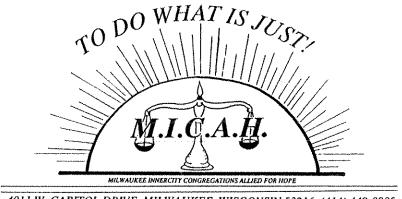
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Father Thomas B. Wirth

Living Branch

Jan & Synthe

Janette Spale

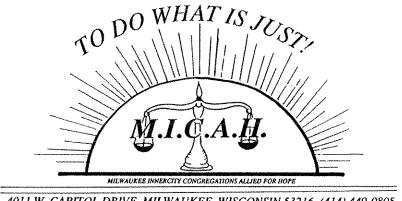
Janette Spale

Jehr Maney

Verhel Maney

Vivian Hiegher

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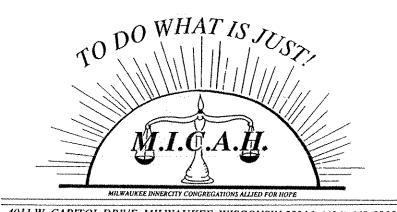
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Thank you. Jyande Shloon



4011 W. CAPITOL DRIVE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53216, (414) 449-0805

Dear Senators Burke, Moore, Decker, Jauch, Shibilski, Plache, Cowles, and Panzer, and Representatives Riley, Gard, Porter, Kaufert, Albers, Duff, Huber and Ward:

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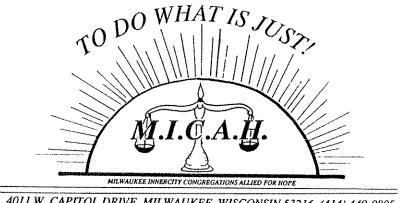
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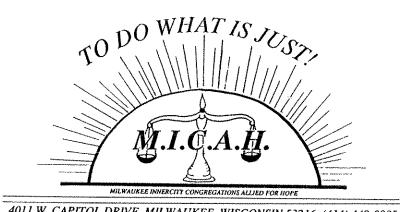
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Thank you. Mary Walker



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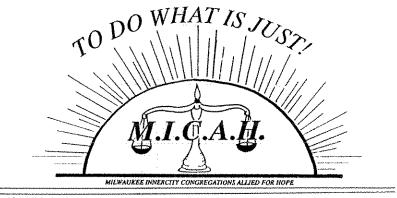
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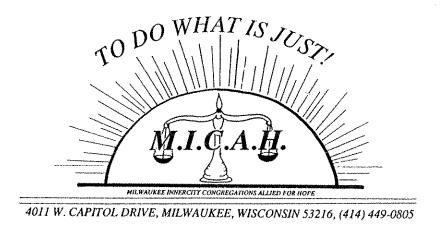
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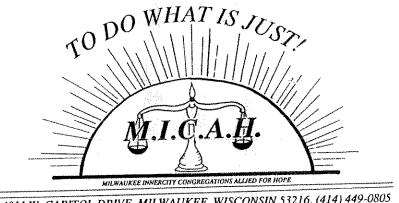
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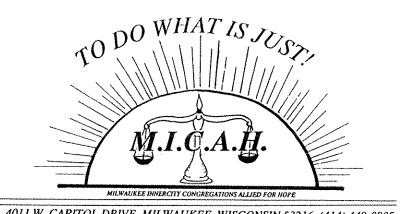
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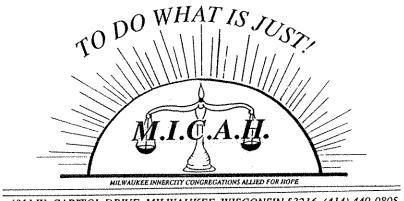
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