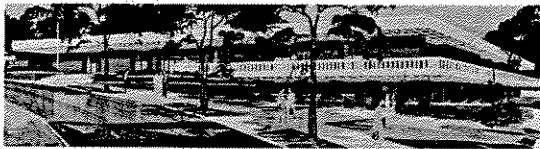


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McMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY • 490 EAST GRAND AVENUE • WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN 54494 - 4898
PHONE: (715) 423-1040

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF
INCREASING PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AIDS—
LINDA VOLLERT, APRIL 13, 1999**

My name is Linda Vollert. I am President of the Board of Trustees of McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of increasing public library system aids.

Public library systems coordinate the sharing of resources among libraries in important ways which are beyond the capability of individual libraries. These systems cannot sustain important services like library automation and materials delivery without adequate State support. Charging individual libraries for an increasing share of these costs will not work; we are under extreme financial pressure from our municipalities. Without a significant increase in the State's support for public library systems, important system services will be lost.

McMillan Library joined the South Central Library System's library automation consortium several years ago. Our library saved \$40,000 in initial costs and \$25,000 per year in operational costs when compared with the costs of a comparable standalone computer system. Our library users moved from an online catalog of 100,000 items to a catalog of 2,000,000 items over night. Our users borrowed approximately 2,000 items each year from other libraries before we joined the automation consortium; in 1998 our users borrowed over 45,000 items from other libraries. What does it mean for the residents of Wisconsin Rapids to have online access to the collection of Madison Public Library? It means a lot. This shared automation system means a lot to Madison too as McMillan Library loans more books than it receives. Sharing resources saves money and increases access to materials for everyone. State funding makes this powerful win-win arrangement possible.

Public library systems like the South Central Library System offer an incredible return for the State funding they receive. Without a renewal of the State's commitment to its partnership with cities and counties, system services will be lost at a time when they have never been more important to the social and economic future of Wisconsin. 13% of the local spending for public libraries is a small price to pay to make this magic happen. I urge you to restore to the budget whatever funds can be found to increase public library system aids.

Thank you.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Office of the Chancellor

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-2123 FAX (715) 346-2561

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/chancell>

email: tgeorge@uwsp.edu

**Statement of Thomas F. George
UWSP Chancellor
Joint Finance Committee public hearing
April 13, 1999**

Welcome to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. I want to thank our own Senator Shibilski, co-chairs Burke and Gard, and all the members of the committee for bringing this public hearing to UW-Stevens Point. I also want to thank the committee for this opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of this university.

Let me begin my brief comments by expressing our strong support for Governor Thompson's proposed UW System 1999-2001 biennial budget. Each new initiative within his proposal, from diversity to technology and from student advising to libraries, is collectively a very positive signal for bipartisan support for the *Wisconsin Idea*.

While others will speak later today on individual aspects of the budget, I wish to focus here today on the need for continuing appropriation, competition among our peer institutions, and the need for creative solutions to increase state support of this and other UW System institutions.

In addition, I would be remiss not to extol the virtues of UW Extension on our campus. I have already mentioned our Collaborative Degree Program with the colleges located in Wausau and Marshfield. One other Extension project I would like to mention is our Learning Through Educational Technologies Program. Here we are working with six area school districts in order to ensure appropriate and effective use of technology innovations in the classroom. Please keep UW Extension's budget needs in mind as the budget process moves forward.

Lastly, the portion of General Purpose Revenue, taxes, in support of the nation's ninth largest university system, has been eroding the past two decades. While I don't have a magic solution to halt and reverse this disturbing trend, I urge you and your colleagues to work with any and all interested parties to halt and reverse this troublesome path. Here at UWSP, approximately 38 percent of our budget are GPR dollars. A generation ago that figure was above 50 percent.

You have granted appropriation benchmarks for K-12 education -- why not do the same for the UW System and reaffirm this state's historical commitment to post secondary education.

Finally, let me urge all of you to keep the *Wisconsin Idea* healthy and alive well into the 21st century. By supporting the Governor's budget, and if possible, finding additional new revenue support, we can keep UWSP and the UW System a world-class learning environment.



April 13, 1999

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

From: Andy Franken
Director of Government Affairs

Re: Support for the University of Wisconsin System Budget

On behalf of Dwight Davis, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wausau Insurance Companies, I appear before you today in support of the University of Wisconsin System budget as proposed by Governor Thompson.

As you may know, Wausau Insurance Companies is the number one workers compensation carrier in the State of Wisconsin. Wausau Insurance employs 5,400 people nationwide, with 3,400 jobs based in Wisconsin, of which 3,000 are in the Wausau area. As the largest employer in Marathon County, Wausau Insurance relies heavily upon graduates of the University of Wisconsin System for its work force. In addition, Wausau Insurance has had a very close working relationship with the UW-System throughout the years and that relationship continues to grow.

In recent years surrounding states have invested heavily in higher education. During the past four years, Wisconsin's support for higher education increased by 7%, while inflation rose 11%. The budget before you will go a long way to help the UW-System remain competitive with its peer group institutions. In particular, we support the Governor's recommendation to increase the University budget and its emphasis on Information Technology (IT) and its support staff, international programs, and the management flexibility provision contained in the continuing appropriations proposal.

International Programs

The state's support for international education is very important for the economic growth of the Wisconsin economy and companies across the state. Wausau Insurance has been a sponsor of the Governor's annual Worldwide Export Conference for the past eight years. Last year Wausau partnered with UW-Madison in sponsoring this event. The goal of the event is to assist small- to mid-size businesses with export issues and to encourage the growth of Wisconsin exports. This program's success is shown in the marked increase in exports of an astounding 70% since 1991. The Governor's proposed expenditure in the area of international education will better prepare students for entrance into the global marketplace. In addition, the Study Abroad Program will enhance student understanding of foreign languages and cultures.

Information Technology

Wausau's Vice President and Chief Information Officer serves as the Chairperson of the Learning Technology Advisory Team (LTAT) at UW-Stevens Point. The LTAT advises the University on how it can make more efficient, effective and creative use of educational technology in order to better prepare students for their professional roles after graduation. Through this relationship, Wausau Insurance has hired many UW-Stevens Point graduates. The Governor's proposal addresses the IT staffing crisis at UW while at the same time providing hands-on experience to students. Wausau Insurance strongly supports the increased funding for this IT support staff which will enable the UW-System to make long-term improvements in IT education and prepare students for the high-tech jobs in the private sector.

Continuing Appropriation

Finally, as a business executive, Mr. Davis strongly supports the continuing appropriation provision included in the state budget which will allow the UW-System to expand service to adults, aggressively pursue distant education and create customized programs that better meet the educational needs of students and communities. This is extremely important from the perspective of a business which has to retool, retrain, and reeducate its work force constantly in order to compete in a global marketplace. These initiatives will also assist the UW-System in serving the adult student population which is increasing in Wisconsin, especially in Northern Wisconsin.

As companies in Wisconsin begin to compete both nationally and globally, our ability to draw talented individuals from the state UW-System enhances our ability to cultivate and promote better learning, business and competitive environments. It is clear that it is much easier to recruit talented individuals from within Wisconsin than nationally. In this paradigm, the University System is critical in educating and training business leaders of tomorrow.

Statement of Andrew J. Gokee
For Hearing of the Joint Committee on Finance
April 13, 1999

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Gokee and I am an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Band of Chippewas. I reside in Plover, WI and have served as Outreach Specialist with the UWSP Native American Center here at UWSP since 1995. In addition to being employed, I am also a second-year graduate student in the UWSP Human and Community Resources Masters Program.

I note for the record that these comments are my own views; they do not purport to represent those of the Native American Center, the Department of Multicultural Affairs, UWSP, or any other institution, organization, or individual. I would like to clearly state that my testimony today is made in my personal capacities as an individual, a taxpayer, and as a graduate student. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with the Committee today on your consideration of UW-System funding as proposed in the 1999-01 biennial budget.

1. Funding for Plan 2008

In general, I am very concerned about the limited funding proposed by Governor to support implementation of Plan 2008, the ten-year plan developed for UW-System to enhance diversity on campuses statewide. It is my understanding that the Governor agrees with funding only about 10% of the request forwarded by the Board of Regents; the funds are designated for statewide pre-college programs only in year two of this budget. This is unacceptable. Commitment to campus diversity looks good on paper, but as the saying goes "where's the beef?" Is the commitment of the state of Wisconsin "real", or only reflected in written policy statements? If it is for real, then the Regent's recommendations for funding the implementation Plan 2008 should be restored in totality.

2. Lawton Retention Grant

Specifically, I would mention the elimination of the Lawton Retention Grant as particularly troubling. Minorities (and American Indians in particular) have a disproportionate rate of attrition on all UW campuses. As an

American Indian who has heard many empty promises, the message is clear: "we no longer care about you". Elimination of the Lawton grant will make our work to retain American Indians (and all minority students) just that more difficult.

3. Advanced Opportunity Program (AOP)

The Advanced Opportunity Fellowship program for minority graduate students has likewise been slated for elimination. I will state unequivocally that the existence of AOP was a major factor that contributed to my application to graduate school. While we are trying to encourage minority students to pursue graduate studies, we will have one less incentive, one less resource available to promote the pursuit of graduate and terminal degree programs by minority students.

I would like to note an additional concern I have about the very large amount of state revenue that goes to the Madison and Milwaukee campuses. Obviously, these campuses are much larger and are of course deserving of greater resources; however, it appears that state revenue dollars are not distributed proportionately in a rational formula. As an example, an AOP graduate fellowship received here at UWSP will cover approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of graduate level tuition; were I to transfer to either Madison or Milwaukee, under the same fellowship I would be eligible to receive approximately \$15,000. per year. Given these two options, where would you attend graduate school? Again, this situation makes it that much more difficult to recruit and retain minority students to attend UWSP, because we simply can't compete with these campuses. The irony is, these campuses already have significant minority populations from which to draw; it is the northern campuses that must make considerable efforts to attract and retain minorities in the interest of increasing the diversity of our campuses.

4. Tuition Flexibility

As a state employee, I support the very moderate pay increases for faculty and staff, which are long overdue. However, I understand that the Governor has included language in budget that allows the Board of Regents the full power to set UW tuition rates for an indeterminate amount of time. It appears that there is perhaps a good possibility that future incremental salary increases will be directly tied to tuition increases as the source of funding. As legislators, you know that you are accountable to your constituents;

however, by and far, the Board of Regents is accountable only to the Governor. This process is not reflective of a participatory democracy, and should be re-examined. The language allowing the Board of Regents such power on an indefinite basis should be eliminated.

5. Board of Regents

Over a span of several years, I have heard concerns from a cross-section of Wisconsin citizens with regard to the lack of accountability of the Natural Resources Board; perhaps as legislators you have received the same sentiments from time to time. Similarly, the concerns of accountability of the Board of Regents has a very familiar ring to it.

I would like to encourage the legislature to re-examine the manner in which the Board of Regents is appointed, and begin serious consideration of a system that requires the members of the Board of Regents to be elected.

Summary

Dozens of meetings and hearings were held across the state to develop Plan 2008. My personal assessment is that Plan 2008 has already been "watered down" considerably from earlier drafts. In other words, what still remains of the plan are only some of the most important funding needs. As only one of hundreds of persons who took time to participate in the development of this plan, the Governor's lack of support for 2008 is very disconcerting. While we encourage students and staff to take personal responsibility, become informed and to participate in the process, it personally makes me wonder what the point actually is when these untold cumulative hours of endeavor become systematically ignored. According to recent publications, the average amount of state dollars spent to incarcerate one person is presently over three times of that spent on an individual citizen for purposes of elementary, secondary, or post-secondary education. I ask you again to consider, what is the message conveyed to students and Wisconsin citizens? Do we really believe this short-sighted approach will bring a solution to the dilemma of crime? What priority do we place on education in our society?

In closing, I would refer to the origins of the "Wisconsin Idea", a unique governmental approach to statewide citizen education, born out of the "Progressive" era of our state history. Yes, Wisconsin used to be regarded as a "leader" in higher education as well as reform. During your

forthcoming budget deliberations (and of those in future years as well), I would ask this committee to realistically examine our state's priorities, and to ask yourself "is the 'Wisconsin Idea' still a reality, or has it become just that - *only an idea?*" Your actions will play a large part in answering this question.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew J. Gokee
3101 Wilson Avenue #2
Plover, WI 54467

Public Budget Hearing, April 13, 1999

Members of the Finance Committee,

I am Tacey Doine, a High School graduate of Marshfield Senior High and am employed today as a result of a School-to-Work program. My intent today is to convey to you the importance that School-to-Work has played in my life. Ten plus years ago I was in a Business Education Co-op class (a School-to-Work program). For me this was a program that identified and sharpened specific skills. These skills include telephone etiquette, human relations, typing and computer skills, and the always important team player ethic. The facets of my life that this program has affected are innumerable. Not only were business-related skills strengthened, but self-esteem, team player ethics, customer relations and office politics were given a positive, solid foundation.

In class we ran a business—we worked as a team. We learned our strengths and weaknesses, each others, and how to deal with them. Changes were made in our business to help each person find her niche. As a result of these experiences strong, lifelong friendships ensued. The real world was exposed to us if only in small doses, but yet the security of home, school and dedicated teachers remained at our doorstep.

As a senior in high school, I did not have a plan. I was not looking forward to any more schooling. But yet I was apprehensive about the real world. My senior year was the best year of my academic years. Prior to this year I did not see what options I could possibly have. I floundered my way through school and life, school never having great importance to me. This changed when through my co-op class I discovered that I enjoyed people and the work world. My self confidence increased greatly and my school attendance improved significantly. I distinctly remember thinking if I do not go to school I cannot go to work. As a high school student it was not the money that gave me this drive. It was the value that had been put on me. When you are expected to perform you will perform. Responsibility helped me to develop into the person I am today. My relations with teachers, fellow classmates, and my parents improved greatly. Many situations faced me in those tender years, but this program gave me an outlet and allowed me to excel in an area I wanted to.

Upon graduation I was approached by an administrator in our school district, who was also one of my employers. He informed me of a position that was open in our district's central office. Finally, I had a plan and my career path was formulated. School-to-Work had not only identified and strengthened skills, it opened the doors to my career and future. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities allowed me through this co-op class. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tacey Doine

Tacey Doine
District Elementary Secretary
School District of Marshfield

April 13, 1999

Joint Finance Committee,

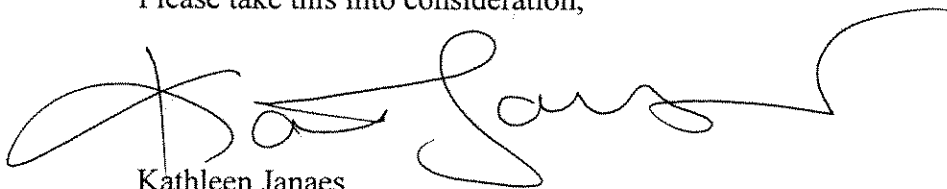
I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. I am also work three jobs on the side to help me pay my way through school. I have only one major complaint about the UW system; tuition continues to rise without regard to the effect it has on the students that are obligated to pay for an education.

Financial aid seems to be the answer to everyone's tuition complaints, yet it caters to only a small portion of the students. In my situation, my family's income deters me from receiving sufficient financial aid without regards to the fact that my family lives in a city with a much higher standard of living and property tax. I am an out of state student and tuition is already more than twice the amount of residents. I cannot afford to pay this on my own without help from my family (that has six college students), but the system feels that since they make over a certain amount of money, they are obligated to pay for me until I am 23. I am unable to receive sufficient financial aid or even work study, therefore I must take out more and more loans with higher and higher interest rates. I am a student, I should not have to also work a full time job in order to make ends meet!

There are thousands of students out there in situations similar or worse than mine. I feel that raising the tuition is deterring many brilliant minds from receiving a higher education and by continuing to raise tuition is to support a decreasing knowledge base of our society and thus a decreasing economy!

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE!

Please take this into consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Janaes', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Janaes
College of Natural Resources and
Biology undergraduate student



University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Student Government Association
Angie Gonzalez, Legislative Issues Director

715-346-3723
FAX: 715-346-4365

Apr. 13

Good morning Joint Finance Committee,

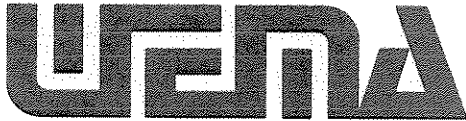
My name is Angie Gonzalez and I am the Legislative Issues Director for the Student Government Association at UW-Stevens Point. I am a first year senior looking to graduate next spring. As I look around at my classmates around me, I see too many of them needing to work, not spending enough time becoming involved in campus activities, always worrying where next semester's tuition will come from. In a way, I feel we have been cheated. While we receive a quality education here at UWSP, there are many who cannot participate in other activities that are necessary and valuable to our college experience. I say this to you, our elected officials, because we are looking to you to help restore campus involvement by increasing the amount of financial aid in the form of grants. This would enable our students throughout the state to receive the money they need and not work as many hours.

In the 1999-2001 biennium, the Governor's proposed budget level-funded two very important grant programs – the TIP (Talent Incentive Program) and the Lawton Grant. An increase of 6% is the minimal amount necessary to provide appropriate access for students throughout the UW-System. We also need to maintain the 6% increase of the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant.

In 1998, the average UW-System student graduated with \$14,201, 56% of all UW students received financial aid and 70% of that financial aid was in the form of loans. This high debt needs to end. I urge you to provide the 6% increases in grant programs and help future graduates lower their debt. It is imperative that we take a strong stand now, before students have to work more hours instead of class, or worse yet, drop out of school. Access to higher public education must be preserved – not in the form of loans, but in the form of state grants.

In closing, I thank you for coming to Stevens Point. Other students will come in front of you today to speak on tuition flexibility, or continuing appropriations, Plan 2008, Academic and Career Advising, and faculty pay increase. They speak on behalf of students and our message is united: Keep the quality of the UW System affordable and accessible. Thank you for your time.

Angela M. Gonzalez



WISCONSIN EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION

April 13, 1999

Dear Members of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance:

I am a high school library media specialist and technology coordinator for the Rosholt School District and past president of the Wisconsin Educational Media Association (WEMA). There are two issues for which I ask your support today.

First, please consider the restoration of full Common School Fund distributions to school library media centers. Common School Fund distributions were capped at 14.3 million in the 1997-99 biennial state budget causing per pupil allocations to drop from \$14.84 per child in 1997 to \$11.64 per child in 1998. While our district supports its library media programs very well, Common School Fund monies account for over 80% of school library funding statewide. In some districts, these are the only funds budgeted for library materials.

The Rosholt School District is facing declining enrollment of 30 students in the 1999-2000 school year and continued significant decline in the number of students over the next five years. We have been asked to make a ten percent cut in our library media budget requests for 1999-2000, yet the cost of books in one of my recent orders ranged from \$12.99 to \$60.00 each. Newspaper and magazine subscriptions continue to rise.

Like districts across the state, our district is revising its curricula to prepare students to meet the new State Standards in all areas. There is a direct correlation between quality library media programs and reading proficiency. Yet, the Governor has proposed continued capping of Common School Fund distributions at a time when student achievement in reading, social studies, science, and math is expected to increase. Contrary to popular opinion, all information is not found on the Internet, and students need books and other print resources. Please remove the cap on the Common School Fund, allowing per pupil allocations for library materials to keep pace with the cost of books and other materials.

My second request is to urge you to support BadgerLink and its funding as

outlined in the recent letter to the Joint Committee on Finance from State School Superintendent, John Benson and Department of Administration Secretary, Mark Bugher. The full-text magazine and newspaper indexes contained in BadgerLink have been heavily used by our staff and students for research since they become available. In September, I taught EVERY staff member- teachers, assistants, and administrators how to use these resources. As students needed to find magazine and newspaper articles, we taught them individually and in groups.

BadgerLink is an excellent bargain. In 1997-98, I budgeted \$2519.10 in my high school library budget to purchase ONE database with less than a hundred magazines having full-text articles from EBSCO. With the volume of purchasing for all types of libraries- public, school, academic, and special- students and community members have access to 11 magazine full-text databases just through EBSCO. If BadgerLink were no longer available to us next year, our students and staff would be back to ONE vastly over-priced magazine database. In a time of cost controls for districts and declining enrollment in the Rosholt District, this does not make economic sense. BadgerLink also allows our students to use full-text newspaper indexes, something Rosholt could not afford in previous years.

Thank you for consideration of my concerns. If you have questions on the Common School Fund or the continued funding of BadgerLink, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,



Helen Adams
7743 Hwy. 77
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-592-4614 (Home) or 715-677-4011 (Work)

April 13, 1999

The State of Wisconsin
Joint Committee on Finance
Madison WI 53707

Dear Review Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to acknowledge support of the Governor's proposed 6% increase in the UW Wisconsin Higher Education Grant, WTCS Wisconsin Higher Education Grant, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant categories. Along with these increases is a recommendation for change in statutory language to allow movement to one Wisconsin Higher Education Grant award formula for both independent and dependent student populations.

As a member of the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board, I can attest to the support of the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the HEAB Board Members in support of the two above recommendations. These are positive steps in attempting to meet the needs of Wisconsin residents.

The total cost of education continues to rise, yet federal assistance in grant dollars has not kept pace. As financial aid officers, we see students borrowing greater amounts to finance their college education and to cover living expenses and child care costs.

The UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System are developing respective formulas to try to address the unmet financial need of students with the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant dollars. The proposed 6% increase is a starting point to reach those needs.

In closing, I appreciate the continued support of State Government in providing higher education opportunities for Wisconsin residents in order to ensure education without burdensome debt. I encourage you to recognize the need for an ongoing commitment of resources to the State Grant Programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Green
Financial Aid Supervisor

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

John A. Gruenloh
Director of Pupil Services
Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

Tuesday, April 13, 1999
10:30 a.m.

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
University Center; Alumni Room

Good morning. My name is John Gruenloh. I am the Director of Pupil Services for the Wisconsin Rapids School District. I not only represent our school district with this testimony, but also the Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS) and the School Administrators Alliance. The Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services is a professional organization comprised of administrators in the area of pupil services and special education. The School Administrators Alliance is an alliance of school administrators comprised of four professional organizations; Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA), Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWAS), Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) and Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS). I want to express my thanks for the opportunity to testify before the Joint Finance Committee and for the support and interest of Senator Shibilski on educational issues. My testimony will primarily address two issues; special education funding and the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE program).

Special Education Funding – Categorical Aids

Wisconsin statutes currently require the state to reimburse local school districts for 63% of the allowable costs incurred in providing special education. Actual reimbursements to school districts, however, have been frozen at \$275.5 million since the 1994-95 school year, and actual reimbursement rates to school districts are approximately 34% as opposed to the 63% figure. The Governor's 1999-2001 biennium budget contains a freeze in the reimbursement at \$275.5

million and it also eliminates the statutory reimbursement rate of 63%. With the dollar amount frozen at \$275.5 million, along with the state and federal mandates to serve students with special education needs, the actual reimbursement rate is predicted to fall even further below the actual 34% that districts are receiving at the present time.

The erosion in levels of state funding is forcing school districts into a position of having to cut regular education, maintenance, materials, and equipment to pay for the state and federal mandated programs for special education. While we recognize that categorical aids are inherently de-equalizing in an era of revenue caps, they provide districts with the greatest discretion and hold the state accountable for funding special education. With special education costs expected to continue to increase, school districts can no longer be expected to absorb what is essentially a budget short-fall of at least \$195 million. It is estimated that the \$195 million is what is required to achieve the 63% statutory reimbursement of special education services.

With the categorical aid reimbursement rate continuing to decline, local school districts are forced to pay for more of the state and federally mandated programs for which they do not have the money to do under revenue caps. In addition, districts are having to cut what they can out of regular education, maintenance, and curriculum materials to pay for the mandates and increased number of children being placed in special education programs.

I would make the following recommendation regarding categorical aids. Ideally, I would recommend that categorical aids be sufficient to fund special education at the 63% reimbursement rate; however, if that is not possible, an increase set at a 50% sum sufficient level would be extremely helpful and beneficial to school districts. A 50% sum sufficient rate of reimbursement would require an increase in categorical aids of over \$100 million.

Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE program)

The biennium budget proposes increasing funding for SAGE by \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2000 and \$13.5 million in fiscal year 2001. With this increase, it is estimated that 32 SAGE schools would be added to the program. Of the 32 schools, 20 of the schools will be in the Milwaukee Public School system. The preference to school districts in 1999-2001 will be given to the Milwaukee Public School District in schools with above the 80% poverty level and to other schools that are above the poverty level by 62%.

With this amount of estimated future funding for SAGE, it is predicted that current schools over the 50% low income level may need to wait six years or more to receive funding. The research, as conducted by the SAGE evaluation team through the School of Education, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, concluded that the SAGE program has had a significant positive effect on the achievement of first graders. It is an exemplary program that should receive both state and federal funding so that class sizes at that level can be reduced to a ratio of 15 students to 1 teacher. Lowering class sizes does have a significant impact on the window of opportunity for students to learn to read in the first grade. Our current school district funds do not allow us to impact class size to the same degree that SAGE and federal dollars would allow us to do. We also realize that with our poverty level at 50% in some schools, it may be as much as six years before the Wisconsin Rapids School District would be able to access funds in order to lower class sizes to a point that would have a significant positive effect on students' ability to read. Statewide, we know that reading achievement could be significantly impacted if all schools over the 50% low income level were brought into the SAGE program in a more condensed timeline.

We realize that it would take a significant amount of funds to pay for a program of such magnitude. However, we do know that lowering class sizes, particularly at the first grade level, does have a positive effect on student learning and any funds that could be brought to bear on

Testimony To The Joint Finance Committee
April 13, 1999
Page 4

this program would be funds well spent on the education of our children. We know that this program works and that more schools need to be funded so that class sizes can be lowered.

Other items contained in the biennium budget that we can support include the revenue exemption limit for school districts experiencing declining enrollments, the state's commitment to continue two-thirds funding, and the continued funding at the proposed level to support the TEACH Board.

Again, I appreciate the support of Senator Shibilski on educational issues and I appreciate the opportunity to address the Joint Finance Committee on issues of education and on issues that impact the children in the State of Wisconsin.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Student Government Association

President

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-3723

(715) 346-4365

4/13/99

Good Morning! My name is Michael D. Snyder and I am the President of the Student Body here at UW-Stevens Point. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Stevens Point, in particular to the University. There are a couple of issues that I would like to discuss with you today on behalf of the students at UWSP; Faculty Pay Increases and Academic Advising in the Biennial Budget.

The Faculty of the UW System currently are underpaid and have not received adequate pay increases in the previous budgets. Two years ago, I followed the 97-98 Biennial Budget process and was displeased to see the much needed Faculty Pay Raises come entirely on the backs of students. I don't believe that it is in the best interest of any member of the University Community to levy the students tuition dollars directly against the Faculty Pay. I am asking you to fund the requested Faculty Pay Increase through GPR dollars and not put the burden entirely on the students of the system who are already facing enormous tuition hikes.

The second issue that I would like to discuss with you is Academic Advising. In the past three and half years I have fought for better advising for the UW-System at two separate UW Campuses. The Governor's proposed 99-00 Biennial Budget finally is financially supporting Academic Advising, unfortunately it is being supported almost entirely by tuition dollars. One of the goals of Academic Advising is to help students get the classes needed to graduate in a timely manner. Students will not be able to effectively complete their classes in the desired four years if they are working multiple jobs in addition to their studies. It is imperative that the monies supporting Academic Advising be balanced between the State GPR dollars and the Student Tuition dollars.

At the heart of both of these issues is the need for the State of Wisconsin through GPR dollars to show their support for the UW-System. As the budget currently stands, the State is not showing support for either the equitable pay of our Faculty nor is it supporting the students' need for quality advising. I encourage you, the Joint Committee on Finance, to rectify this oversight and show the true support Wisconsin has for State Higher Education.

Michael D. Snyder

April 13, 1999

Testimony to the Joint Finance Committee
Stevens Point, WI

My name is Heather Eldred. I am Director of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, a seven county library system serving residents of the north central Wisconsin counties of Clark Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida and Taylor...and beyond. While I have many library-related concerns this session (and I urge you to support them all) I will focus my comments today on only one of them...system aids.

Wisconsin's librarians worked hard last year to explain the needs of Wisconsin's 17 library systems to our legislators. We thought our concerns were understood when Wisconsin Act 150 (which required DPI to budget for 13% system funding) was passed in the last legislative session and signed by the Governor.

You can imagine our dismay when we learned that even though the Governor signed Act 150, his budget doesn't include ANY increase in system funding. So we're back again - trying to explain the importance of an increase in system aids.

The Governor's TEACH Wisconsin program is laudable and appreciated and we're very pleased that he is proposing to include funding for BadgerLink in the TEACH budget - but it doesn't go far enough! The schools only deal directly with about 20% of this state's population. What about the other 80% who also need access to information and who generally get that information through their public libraries?

Most of this state is served by rural library systems which are generally far behind their counterparts in the more populous areas of the state in terms of technology. TEACH Wisconsin and the e-rate are providing us with the opportunity to catch up with our more geographically compact (and generally more prosperous) colleagues in terms of high-speed telecommunications. While we have the will and the expertise to move ahead technologically, shared automation is still out of the question financially for many of the small libraries in this state. The world around us is moving from print to electronic information. If public libraries aren't able to provide this type of access, there will be islands of under-served people throughout this state.

13% funding will also allow for implementation of a more equitable system aid distribution formula. This is urgently needed for the larger, more rural systems who, under the current formula, are falling further behind. As an example, without increased funding and the new formula, my system is scheduled to receive less state aid in 2000 than in 1999. SB66 is currently being forwarded to achieve this much needed change in the distribution formula.

Library systems operate as backups to libraries. They provide the human and electronic connections to access the world of information. Without systems, those connections would not be there. Most library users are not aware of the services they use which are provided by library systems to and through their local libraries. If

people knew about the services they will lose if systems fail, legislators would be flooded with pleas to adequately support systems.

Systems have not traditionally spent much money to explain their services to library patrons. Instead, they choose to spend their limited dollars on services. This makes for good use of tax dollars but it doesn't help systems garner support in the legislative process. Then, when it's mostly library personnel who come before you and plead for increased funding, it looks very self-serving. It's not! If library personnel don't stand up and plead for adequate funding, not many others will...not because it's not important but because average library users just don't know enough about what library systems do.

The Legislature created the system program in Wisconsin. Those of us who have been a part of that program from its inception are proud of what we have done - we hope you are too...

Please support 13% funding for Wisconsin's library systems.

Thank-you.

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

by Dale E. Bartkowiak, Director
Marshfield Public Library

April 13, 1999

Co-Chairpersons Burke and Gard, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am here on behalf of the Marshfield Public Library Board of Trustees to express support for an important library initiative on public library system aids that was not included in the Governor's budget and support for a bill on library lending incentives that is now pending before the legislature.

Public Library System Aids

Public library systems enable individual libraries to offer greater options to customers, above and beyond what is available within the confines of their own walls. Our system, the South Central Library System, provides us delivery service, which saves us thousands of dollars in postage each year; interlibrary loan which allows for access to library collections state-wide; resource library services; consultant services; continuing education opportunities for our staff; and more. The current public library system infrastructure enables local libraries to better meet the information needs of their residents in a cost-effective manner.

However, state funding for public library systems has eroded over the years and the state has never fully funded its commitment to public library systems. Last year the legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 269 (Act 150) which, if funded, would rectify this problem. Unfortunately, the funding requested by the Department of Public Instruction for increasing system aids was omitted from the Governor's budget.

All over the State, public library systems are finding it harder and harder to complete their mission and local libraries, and their customers -- your constituents, are the ones who suffer. Without the continued assistance and services of the South Central Library System, our library would be crippled in our ability to provide for the needs of our residents. We need assistance with developing computer technology and with computer system connectivity with other library resources in the state. Without increased system funding, this is not going to be in the cards in the near future.

Senate Bill 59 – Public Library Lending Incentive Aid Program

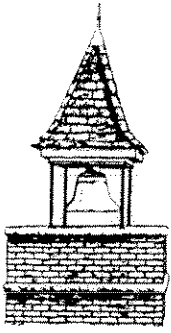
Currently before the legislature, the Public Library Lending Incentive Aid Program (Senate Bill 59) encourages public libraries to continue to make their collections and services available to people who live outside their municipal boundaries. The program would provide approximately \$.50 per circulation outside of the municipality (to give you some idea, our current cost per circulation is about \$2.29).

Our library has continuing problems obtaining adequate reimbursement for the services we provide to persons residing outside of our municipality. The program would assist in making up for inadequate reimbursement from our county -- counties being only mandated by recent law to provide 70% of the cost of service. The program would also assist our library and the Marathon County Public Library in developing a workable solution for current cross-border problems.

While far from solving some of the more serious cross-border inequities in the state, the program would encourage a goodly number of areas to maintain open access.

We encourage restoration of DPI's original request for system funding in this budget as well as passage of SB 59, the Library Lending Incentive Program, as investments in the informational well-being of the citizens of Wisconsin.

I thank you for your time.



Wausau School District Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359
(715) 261-2500 • FAX (715) 261-2580 • T.D.D. (715) 261-2505

Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING APRIL 13, 1999

Berland A. Meyer
Deputy Superintendent/
Assistant Superintendent
Program Development

Cherna A. Gorder
Assistant Superintendent
Business

Joy E. Trollop
Director of Human Resources
and Employee Relations

1. **PROJECTED 1999-2000 BUDGET DEFICIT**
 - When we take the revenue limit increase with the decline in revenue, our District is short \$445,045 of the cost to fund a 3.8% roll-up for salaries and fringe benefits.

2. **REASONS WE ARE FACING THIS DILEMMA SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVENUE CAPS**
 - \$1.9 million increase in ESL program cost (state reimbursement has declined to 19%)
 - \$3.1 million increase in special education program cost (state reimbursement has declined to 34%)
 - \$587,000 in Chapter 220 costs
 - Discuss graphs

3. **TOTAL COSTS CHARGED AGAINST REVENUE LIMITS LESS REVENUE EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED IS \$3.7 MILLION**

4. **IN ORDER TO ADDRESS NEXT'S YEAR'S BUDGET DEFICIT, WE HAVE PROPOSED TO OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION THE FOLLOWING:**
 - Reduce 5 teaching FTE's
 - Eliminate our pre-school ESL Program
 - Freeze special education hiring
 - Reduce our Dream Flight Program
 - Freezing and reducing building and maintenance budgets

5. IF ENROLLMENT REMAINS THE SAME FOR THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR, WE WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL \$910,000 OF CUTBACKS. THIS WILL NECESSITATE A MORE SEVERE RETRENCHMENT OF OUR BUDGET AND ADDITIONAL CUTBACKS IN INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.
6. WE ASK YOU TO CONSIDER INSTITUTING THE 75% RECURRING HOLD HARMLESS LEGISLATION FOR DECLINING ENROLLMENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS LIMITED TO THE NEXT BIENNIUM. THIS PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR WE LOST 89 STUDENTS WHICH HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR 3 YEAR ROLLING AVERAGE CALCULATION IN THE BUDGET FORMULA. IF WE HAD TO ABSORB THE ENTIRE COST OF THIS LOSS IN ONE BUDGET YEAR, THE RAMIFICATIONS WOULD BE EVEN MORE DEVASTATING.
7. WE ALSO ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER REINSTATING THE INCREASE IN PER PUPIL ADJUSTMENTS AS WAS EVIDENT IN THE LAST BIENNIAL BUDGET. THIS WOULD GIVE WISCONSIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AT LEAST AN INFLATIONARY INCREASE.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Wausau School District

**1998-99 Report on Unfunded Expenditure Increases Since
Implementation of Revenue Limits**

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT - April, 1999

ESL Program Increases

	ESL Expenditures	ESL Revenue	Difference	Net Cost Against Revenue Limit
1998-99	3,624,987	688,748	2,936,239	
1992-93	1,517,468	502,889	1,014,579	
	<hr/>			
Increase	2,107,519	185,859	1,921,660	1,921,660

Special Education Program Costs

	EEN Expenditures	EEN Revenue	Difference
1998-99	8,577,123	2,830,451	5,746,672
1992-93	5,037,803	2,423,913	2,613,890
	<hr/>		
Increase	3,539,320	406,538	3,132,782

New Construction Costs:
(Utilities only)

Horace Mann	Cost	
John Muir	161,723	
G D Jones	38,466	
Jefferson	16,900	
South Mountain	30,457	
Total	41,438	288,984

Chapter 220 Costs

587,351

Total Costs Charged Against Revenue Limits \$ 5,930,777

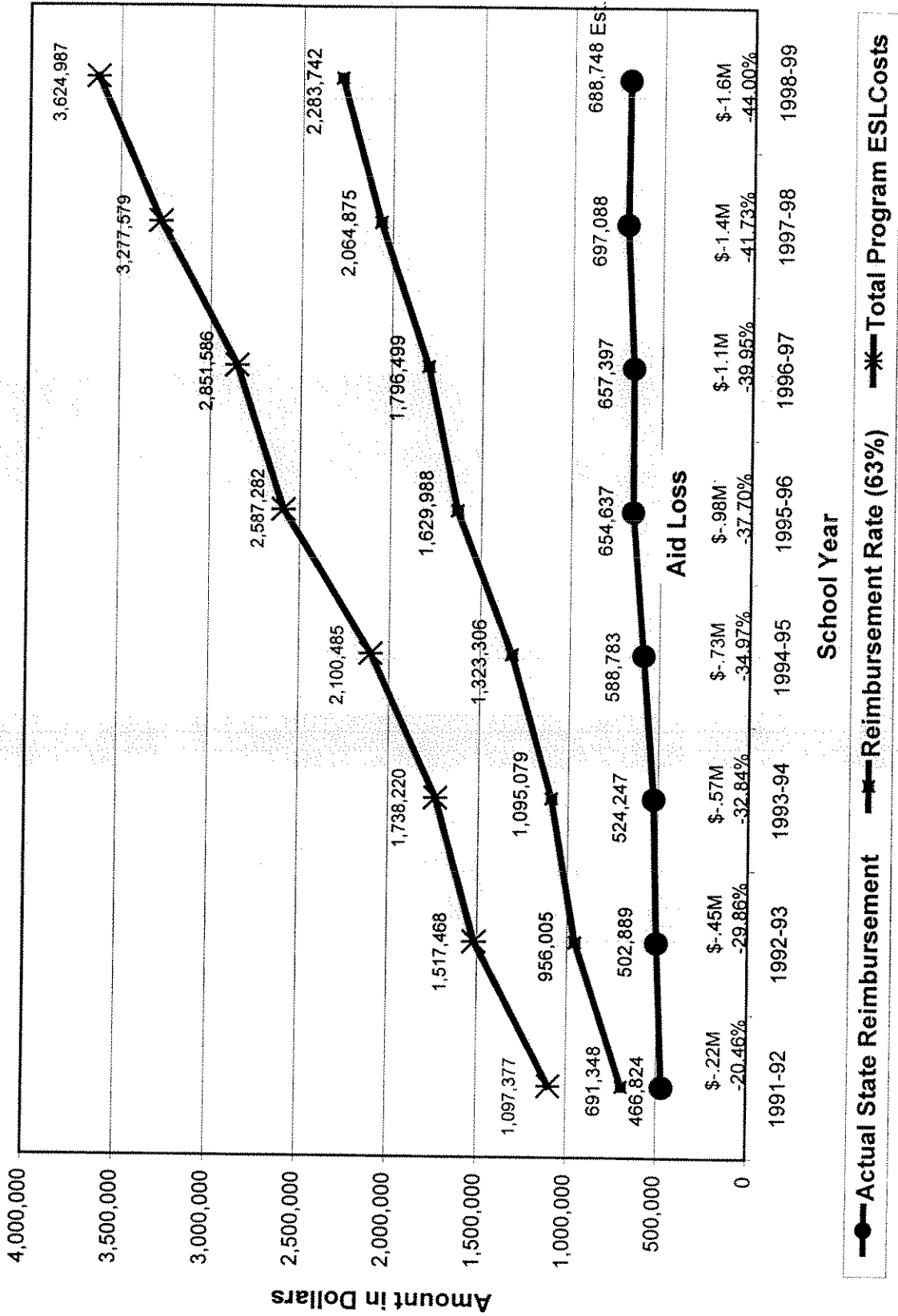
*Less: Revenue Limit Exemptions Allowed*** 2,186,905

Net Costs Charged Against Revenue Limits \$ **3,743,872**

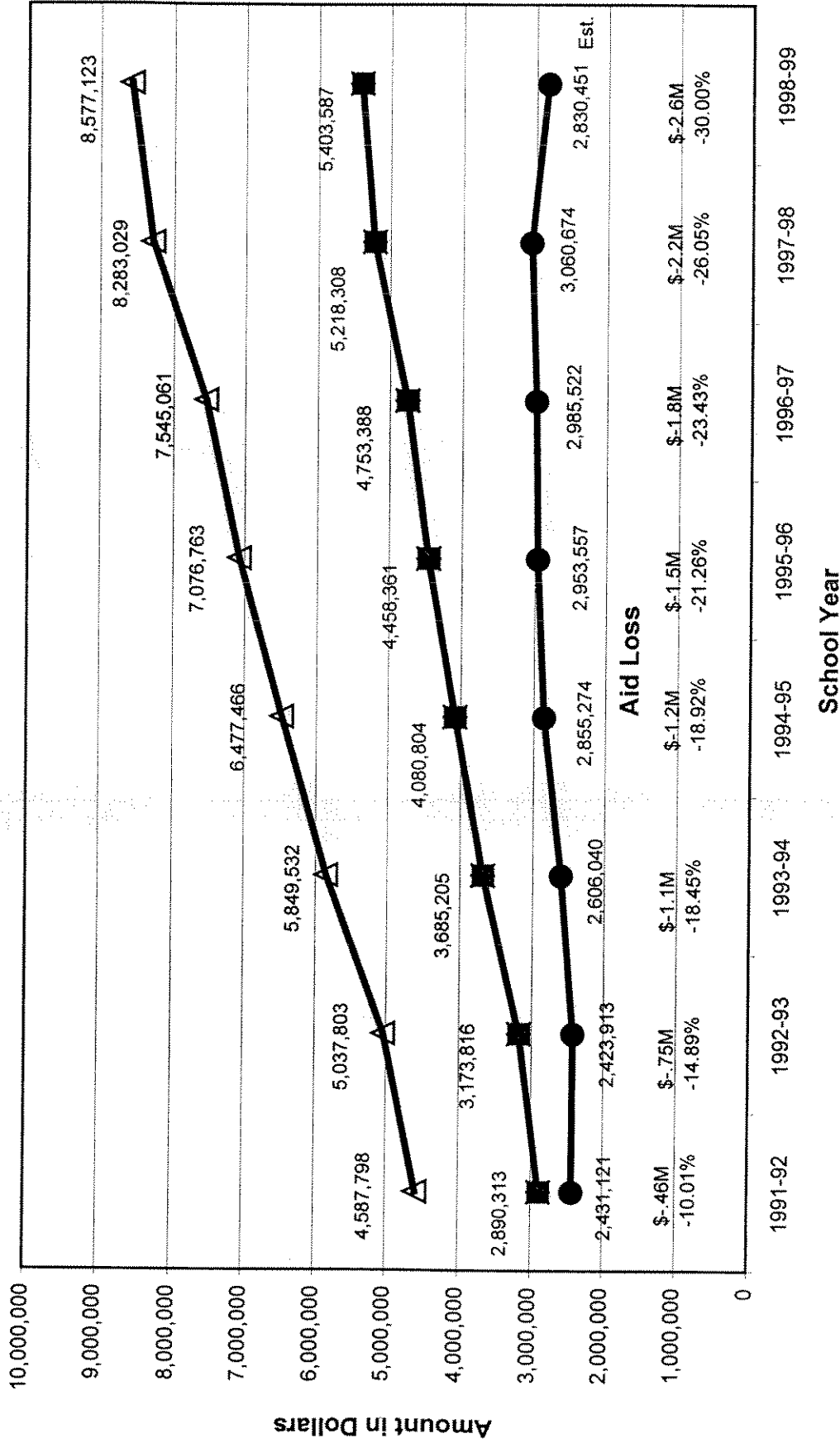
Net Growth in EEN Expenditure - Revenue	3,132,782
**Offsetting Revenue Limit Exemptions	526,570
Net Growth of EEN Expenditure	2,606,212

Net Growth in ESL Expenditure - Revenue	1,921,660
**Offsetting Revenue Limit Exemptions	1,660,336
Net Growth of ESL Expenditure	261,324

State ESL Aid for Wausau School District



State Handicapped Aid for Wausau School District



Actual State Reimbursement
 Statutory Reimbursement Rate (63%)
 Total Program EEN Costs

State Handicapped Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Statutory Reimbursement		Total Program EEN	Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
		Rate (63%)	Total Program EEN						
1991-92	2,431,121	2,890,313	4,587,798	4,587,798	52.99%	459,192	\$-46M	-10.01%	
1992-93	2,423,913	3,173,816	5,037,803	5,037,803	48.11%	749,903	\$-75M	-14.89%	
1993-94	2,606,040	3,685,205	5,849,532	5,849,532	44.55%	1,079,165	\$-1.1M	-18.45%	
1994-95	2,855,274	4,080,804	6,477,466	6,477,466	44.08%	1,225,530	\$-1.2M	-18.92%	
1995-96	2,953,557	4,458,361	7,076,763	7,076,763	41.74%	1,504,804	\$-1.5M	-21.26%	
1996-97	2,985,522	4,753,388	7,545,061	7,545,061	39.57%	1,767,866	\$-1.8M	-23.43%	
1997-98	3,060,674	5,218,308	8,283,029	8,283,029	36.95%	2,157,634	\$-2.2M	-26.05%	
1998-99	2,830,451	5,403,587	8,577,123	8,577,123	33.00%	2,573,136	\$-2.6M	-30.00%	

Note: 1998-99 Aid % estimated 3/16/99

State ESL Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Reimbursement Rate (63%)	Total Program ESL Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
1992-93	502,889	956,005	1,517,468	33.14%	453,116	\$-45M	-29.86%
1993-94	524,247	1,095,079	1,738,220	30.16%	570,832	\$-57M	-32.84%
1994-95	588,783	1,323,306	2,100,485	28.03%	734,523	\$-73M	-34.97%
1995-96	654,637	1,629,988	2,587,282	25.30%	975,351	\$-98M	-37.70%
1996-97	657,397	1,796,499	2,851,586	23.05%	1,139,102	\$-1.1M	-39.95%
1997-98	697,088	2,064,875	3,277,579	21.27%	1,367,787	\$-1.4M	-41.73%
1998-99	688,748	2,283,742	3,624,987	19.00%	1,594,994	\$-1.6M	-44.00%

Note: 1998-99 aid estimated 3/16/99

Combined State Handicapped Aid and State ESL Aid for Wausau School District

Year	Actual State Reimbursement	Reimbursement Rate (63%)	Total Program EEN & ESL Costs	% Reimbursement	Aid Loss	Abbrev. Aid Loss	% Loss
1992-93	2,926,802	4,129,821	6,555,271	44.65%	1,203,019	\$-1.2M	-18.35%
1993-94	3,130,287	4,780,284	7,587,752	41.25%	1,649,997	\$-1.6M	-21.75%
1994-95	3,444,057	5,404,110	8,577,951	40.15%	1,960,053	\$-2.0M	-22.85%
1995-96	3,608,194	6,088,349	9,664,045	37.34%	2,480,155	\$-2.5M	-25.66%
1996-97	3,642,919	6,549,887	10,396,647	35.04%	2,906,968	\$-2.9M	-27.96%
1997-98	3,757,762	7,283,183	11,560,608	32.50%	3,525,421	\$-3.5M	-30.50%
1998-99	3,519,199	7,687,329	12,202,110	28.84%	4,168,130	\$-4.2M	-34.16%

Note: 1998-99 aid estimated 3/16/99

EEN AID & COSTS - WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 16, 1999

YEAR	TOTAL PROGRAM \$	% REIMBURSEMENT	ACTUAL AID DOLLARS	STATUTORY AID-63%	AID LOSS
1987-88	2,990,312	59.15%	1,768,714	1,883,897	115,183
1988-89	3,285,259	56.26%	1,848,193	2,069,713	221,520
1989-90	3,654,890	58.48%	2,137,201	2,302,581	165,380
1990-91	4,108,358	57.79%	2,374,383	2,588,266	213,883
1991-92	4,587,798	52.99%	2,431,121	2,890,313	459,192
1992-93	5,037,803	48.11%	2,423,913	3,173,816	749,903
1993-94	5,849,532	44.55%	2,606,040	3,685,205	1,079,165
1994-95	6,477,466	44.08%	2,855,274	4,080,804	1,225,530
1995-96	7,076,763	41.74%	2,953,557	4,458,361	1,504,804
1996-97	7,545,061	39.57%	2,985,522	4,753,388	1,767,866
1997-98	8,283,029	36.95%	3,060,674	5,218,308	2,157,634
1998-99*	8,577,123	33.00%	2,830,451	5,403,587	2,573,137
TOTALS	58,896,270		27,444,592	37,104,650	9,660,058

186.83% - Increase in handicapped expenditures since 1987-88

*ESTIMATED

ESL FUNDING FOR THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 16, 1999

YEAR	ESL PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT REIMBURSEMENT	STATE REIMBURSEMENT	UNFUNDED PROGRAM COSTS
1987-88	463,479	58.62%	271,691	191,788
1988-89	479,544	52.92%	253,775	225,769
1989-90	657,413	52.29%	343,761	313,652
1990-91	935,087	48.89%	457,164	477,923
1991-92	1,097,377	42.54%	466,824	630,553
1992-93	1,517,468	33.14%	502,889	1,014,579
1993-94	1,738,220	30.16%	524,247	1,213,973
1994-95	2,100,485	28.03%	588,783	1,511,702
1995-96	2,587,282	25.30%	654,637	1,932,645
1996-97	2,851,586	23.05%	657,397	2,194,189
1997-98	3,277,579	21.27%	697,088	2,580,491
1998-99*	3,624,987	19.00%	688,748	2,936,239
TOTALS	21,330,507		6,107,004	15,223,503

682.13% - Increase in ESL expenditures since '1987-88'

*ESTIMATED

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RAY SPOTO
UW-Platteville

WFT, AFT, AFL-CIO

UW-SP CHAPTER

April 13, 1999

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: Dan Sivek, President 
UW-SP Chapter of The Association of the University of Wisconsin
Professionals (TAUWP)

Subject: Two items of concern to UW-SP faculty and staff – insurance and
salaries

On behalf of the UW-SP chapter of TAUWP, I'd like to testify in support of two items.

First is the six month waiting period before the state picks up health insurance premiums for new employees. This is a tremendous burden for new employees, many of whom are already starting at salaries that are below their peers. For those with families, this is an even greater burden. Two new UW-SP employees with whom I've recently spoken indicated this was rather a negative way to start a new position. A third suggested that he hopes the six month wait doesn't adversely affect his search and screen for a vacancy created by a departing faculty member.

The second item of concern is faculty salaries. Data from the American Association of University Professionals show that UW full professors in our comprehensive institutions are paid an average of 9.6 percent less than their peers at 371 public universities nationwide. Data from the College and University Personnel Association suggest a gap nearly twice as large. Associate and assistant professors in the UW comprehensive institutions are also paid less than the average of their peers nationwide. To remedy this situation, TAUWP supports the resolution passed by at least ten UW Faculty Senates. That resolution calls for increases of 6 and 8 percent over the two years of the upcoming biennium.

The importance of restoring equitable salaries and benefits in the UW system is becoming increasingly important. A report shared with the UW regents last week suggested that 30 to 40 percent of faculty system-wide will be retiring in the next decade. If these data reflect any nationwide trends the UW system will be need to be more competitive than ever in order to attract and retain quality faculty.

The University of Wisconsin system is still recognized as one of the finest in the nation. However, with the dismal budgets of the past two biennia it seems that Wisconsin state government is determined for us to slip to the ranks of mediocrity. While the neighboring states of Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan have increased GPR spending on their universities by 17 to 25 percent during this time, the increase in GPR spending on Wisconsin universities was two percent!

I hope that the legislature and the governor have turned the corner in declining support for higher education. Perhaps with your help, we'll soon be able to say once again that we spend more on educating adults in Wisconsin than we do on imprisoning them.

Thank you.

**Testimony Before the joint Finance Committee
Tuesday, April 13th, 1999**

**By
Paul Shogren, teacher
Stevens Point, WI**

Thank you co-chairpersons Burke and Gard and members of the Joint Finance Committee for appearing in Stevens Point to hear from the public on AB 133, the 1999-2001 biennial budget bill. My name is Paul Shogren and I teach in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Beginning in the 1993-94 school year, the Legislature limited revenue increases for local school districts. Increases were set at an amount roughly equal to the rate of inflation in the prior year and based on the number of students in the district. Since then, school districts throughout the state have suffered greatly under these state-imposed revenue caps. I urge the Joint Finance Committee to provide additional relief from revenue caps in this biennial budget.

I applaud the governor for extending temporary relief from the revenue caps for school districts hurt by declining enrollments. The time has come, however, for the Legislature to either repeal this law or at least provide additional relief from the caps thereby allowing local school districts the flexibility needed to provide the best possible education to the children of Wisconsin.

Revenue caps continue to hinder efforts to improve the quality of education in Wisconsin. Since revenue caps went into effect in 1993, more than one-third of administrators report increasing class size; more than two-thirds have delayed or reduced the purchase of computers and other technology; and well over half have delayed building maintenance and improvement projects.

Previous surveys have consistently shown that districts are cutting back on programs and services in order to stay within the revenue caps. The survey shows the long-term damage revenue caps are inflicting on our children and their education.

At the same time the state is raising expectations for students through academic standards and performance assessments, districts are losing resources to meet those expectations.

Short of absolute repeal of the revenue caps, I urge the Joint Finance Committee take action to provide relief from the caps in the following areas:

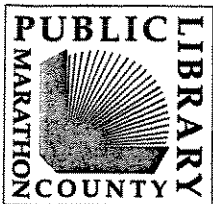
- Funding special education costs.
- Funding summer school, remedial and alternative education programs.
- Funding for investments in school security and technology measures.
- Funding for building maintenance and new text books.

The revenue caps force school districts to pit the needs of the most needy students against other educational programs. Districts are forced to make the choice between funding strict state and federal mandates to educate special needs children and cutting back on other general education programs or extracurricular activities. The governor's decision to freeze handicapped aids and to repeal the state's goal to fund 63% of those costs will only make matters worse. Finally, many districts are dealing with increasingly challenging student populations and wish to invest in innovative school security and technology measures. This innovation is snuffed out by the suffocating nature of the caps.

Additional Rationale for Relief from Revenue Caps:

- Revenue caps substantially limit the authority of local school boards to raise and spend funds for education. The caps were imposed without regard to a school district's actual educational needs or economic circumstances.
- Public schools are experiencing rising costs (above the rate of inflation) associated with educating students with exceptional educational needs and bilingual students, opening new facilities, student transportation, improvements to school buildings, and textbooks.
- Revenue caps have prevented increases in expenditures for education in low-spending districts whose students already are being denied equal educational opportunity. This perpetuates a pattern of educational inequality.
- Strict revenue caps are not imposed upon other units of local government with property taxing authority, such as cities, counties, and villages.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today.



Headquarters Library
300 North 1st Street
Wausau, WI 54403-5473
715-261-7200

LIBRARIES IN: Athens, Edgar, Marathon, Mosinee, Rothschild, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau

STATE OF WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING April 13, 1999

I urge you to include funding for these important library initiatives in the next budget.

- **BadgerLink**

The recommendation has been made by DOA and DPI that funding be added from the TEACH program. I would reinforce this recommendation as it would keep this invaluable online resource in libraries and maintain access to this resource for all citizens.

Funding required:

2000: \$836,000

2001: \$1,700,000

- **Funding for public library systems**

In 1998 the Legislature passed Act 150 which required the DPI to request funding for library systems at 13% of local and county expenditures for public library service. The library systems promote sharing of resources among member libraries and provide additional services which local libraries cannot fund. These include delivery of requested items between libraries, consultation, continuing education, automation guidance, and collections for all members to use. I am asking you to support the DPI request for increases in the library system aid as stipulated in Act 150.

Additional funds requested to meet the higher level of funding:

1999-2000: \$5,141,200

2000-2001: \$6,244,700

Total both years: \$11,385,900

- **Establish a public library lending incentive aid program**

This initiative would provide a per-loan incentive payment to local libraries for maintaining open access to library service for all Wisconsin citizens, despite political boundaries.

Currently, 31% of the total number of public library loans in Wisconsin were to residents outside of that municipality. The incentive aid program would assist local libraries in recovering the cost of providing service to Wisconsin citizens who do not reside in that municipality.

This funding would help Marathon County Public Library to resolve the cross border issue which currently exists with Marshfield Public Library.

Based on a current incentive payment of approximately 50 cents per loan, the recommended funding for this program is:

2000: \$7,459,000

2001: \$7,570,000

Thank you for your attention to these critical library issues.



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SPENCER PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Judy Berger, Director

Larry E. Stordahl
Supt. of Schools

April 13, 1999

To: Wisconsin - Joint Legislative Finance Committee

Re: Declining Enrollments in K-12 Schools

From: Larry Stordahl, Superintendent - Spencer Public Schools

We are a declining enrollment district. At this time we have done (are doing) two things to counter this trend and maintain some semblance of the programs that have grown to become "EXPECTED" IN Wisconsin schools: guidance, elementary art and music, gifted and talented, school - to - work, technology/distance education initiatives, high standards and assessments, community service programs, libraries - the list goes on and on. We have recently passed a referendum which will allow us to exceed the revenue cap by \$250,000.00/year, at the cost of a twenty percent (20%) local tax increase, and we are looking to implement VOLUNTARY four-year-old kindergarten as a way to increase student enrollment. These efforts should see us through a couple more years.

Attached to this document is an enrollment projection for our school; the "highs and lows" are circled. In the course of the next four years, I do not expect our heating costs, our electrical costs, our transportation costs, our labor costs, or our costs for supplies and materials to decrease; in fact, I expect them to increase at a rate of at least four percent (4%)/year. Since we have no control over these costs, it is obvious that the cuts which will take place will be in the areas mentioned above. The only way these cuts can be effective is to cut personnel in the above mentioned programs. According to existing State Law, many of these programs cannot be cut. This leaves but one alternative: cut regular education, class-room teachers. This will serve to increase class size at a time when the current governmental wisdom (teachers have known this for many years) is to decrease class size and improve student performance.

Finally, I would like to establish an analogy here: Cement blocks can be manufactured and placed outside in the weather and be expected to be found in place, and of the same quality, at some later period in time (a week, a day, or a month). Children are not like cement blocks: they do not remain the same from day-to-day or week-to-week; they need special attention on an almost daily basis. It would seem to me that the revenue cap law is applying a principle of business, a corporate mentality if you will, to our children: "If there is to be less production, there needs to be lower production costs." If we are to operate the schools in this manner, there needs to be a dramatic change made in existing State Laws and in the public's expectations. Who shall do this?? The Legislature?? The Governor?? Local Boards certainly can't, or is that an expectation placed upon us by the use of our tax money given back to us in the form of increased state aides (2/3 funding)??

Pupil Enrollment
History and Projections

Spencer Public Schools

	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
September Count	859	895	892	894	885	874	858	832	803	789	776
January Count	869	894	885	894	889	872	858	832	803	789	776
Summer School ADM	13	16	13		12	12	10	5	5	5	5
SS ADM 20% Calc	871	903	895	894	893	879	863	835	806	791	779

	Projected		Projected		Projected		Projected		Projected	
	Sep-98 FTE	Sep-99 FTE	Sep-00 FTE	Sep-01	Sep-02	Sep-03	Sep-03	Sep-03	Sep-03	Sep-03
3-4 EEN	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Kdgn	55	60	60	56	56	55	55	55	55	54
Gr 1	39	55	55	60	56	56	56	56	56	55
Gr 2	60	39	39	55	60	60	56	56	56	56
Gr 3	58	60	60	39	55	55	60	60	60	56
Gr 4	65	58	58	60	39	39	55	55	55	60
Gr 5	58	65	65	58	60	60	39	39	39	55
Gr 6	70	58	58	65	58	60	60	60	60	39
Gr 7	87	70	70	58	65	65	58	58	58	60
Gr 8	67	87	87	70	58	65	58	65	65	58
Gr 9	69	67	67	87	70	70	58	58	58	65
Gr 10	85	69	69	67	87	87	70	70	70	58
Gr 11	82	85	85	69	67	67	87	87	87	70
Gr 12	75	82	82	85	69	69	67	67	67	87
	873	858	858	832	803	803	789	789	789	776
		56	56	56	55	55	54	54	54	54

Testimony on Behalf of the South Central Library System
Presented to the Joint Finance Committee
April 13, 1999

My name is Bill Zimdars. I am a Portage County Supervisor, Portage County Library Trustee and South Central Library System Trustee. I am here to urge you to restore dollars for an increase in public library system aids to the biennial budget bill.

Learning is a lifelong need and a complex commodity in our technological age. Access to information to fulfill this need is provided by our schools and libraries. As such, public libraries give this access to all people of all ages and economic levels. They create a level playing field to help ensure that all citizens can become responsible citizens.

One critical issue is bringing funding to the level of 13% of the previous year's public library expenditures.

Additional dollars are needed to fund the LINK system and connect all other systems to LINK to provide equal access to all residents.

The present delivery system is growing rapidly and provides essential services by providing access to materials that might not be available in a local library. The cost is extremely low compared to each library purchasing all material or using the Postal System to deliver material. The delivery system is a bargain for all citizens and the particularly to taxpayers.

Internet service needs to be expanded to provide access to computers for our citizens. To do this we need TEACH subsidized lines, multiple workstations, local equipment, maintenance personnel, hand-on training, etc.

The needs are great and funds are limited. This we can all agree on. You are urged to consider not only items listed above, but many other needs the library community in Wisconsin has to properly serve its citizens. This also must be weighed against the needs of all other departments in state government. It is not an easy task but we ask for your consideration as you deliberate the budget.



McMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY • 490 EAST GRAND AVENUE • WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN 54494 - 4898
PHONE: (715) 423-1040

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL 59—RONALD B. McCABE, APRIL 13, 1999**

I'm Ron McCabe, Director of McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids. I am here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 59, which would provide an incentive aid program for libraries serving nonresident borrowers.

It was my privilege to serve on the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries which proposed this bill. When the Special Committee began its work in 1996, there was a general concern that the "wheels" on Wisconsin's developmental structure for public libraries were beginning to wobble. The absence of State funding to compensate libraries serving nonresidents was one of the critical weaknesses addressed by the Committee.

Many libraries serve large numbers of nonresidents without adequate compensation. If this situation is not addressed, funding bodies unwilling to provide free or discounted service to nonresidents may force libraries to end service to these people. Libraries ending nonresident service will lose membership in public library systems. As tensions grow throughout the state due to this unresolved problem, it is increasingly clear that the State's developmental structure for public libraries is in jeopardy. This is a very real issue for us at McMillan Library.

To demonstrate the seriousness of this problem, allow me to show how nonresident library use has affected Wisconsin Rapids. In 1998, over half of the materials loaned by McMillan Library were borrowed by those living outside the Wisconsin Rapids city limits. Despite the fact that 52.4% of our loans went to nonresidents, only 19.1% of our tax support came from this group. The funding we received for nonresidents came entirely from Wood County; we received no funding whatsoever for the 8.6% of our use benefiting nonresidents living outside our county. Although the passage of Act 150 last year will result in increased funding from Wood County in 2001, that change will require that our library be paid only 70% of the operational cost of serving county users and requires no support for our library's capital costs.

Uncompensated nonresident use is the single most serious problem our library has faced in its 109 year history. Every year we must choose between accountability to City taxpayers and continued membership in Wisconsin's library resource sharing community. Every year the pressure on municipal finances makes this choice more difficult for our library's board of trustees and for our city's common council. Although Senate Bill 59 pays for only a fraction of the cost of providing service to nonresidents, it gives libraries and their municipalities an incentive to continue the good work of extending service to neighbors who have no other access to library services. Senate Bill 59 is a creative and effective response to an important problem. I urge your approval of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

April 13, 1999

To: the Joint Finance Committee

From: Paul Shogren- Stevens Point- teacher

This record is submitted with more general written testimony of the effects of the revenue caps on public education in the social studies classrooms at Stevens Point Area Senior High.

1. 19 students signed up to take the AP Comparative Government course at SPASH next year. But because of new enrollment minimums are going from 18 to 20 in our district, this course will not be offered. As our best and brightest are trying enrich their course loads to get into the best schools, we won't be able to offer them this opportunity.
2. When EEN students were mainstreamed into regular education courses, Stevens Point fought hard to keep enrollment numbers between 24-25 students per class. Classes will now have to be closer to 28-30 students. How much individualized instruction can be given in that situation? This is exacerbated even more with the tight money supply in the Special Ed. Department that sees their case loads increasing as well.
3. AP US History used to be around 25-27 students per class. Sections next year will be closer to 30 and above. In a writing-emphasis, such as this course, this becomes very difficult to manage.
4. We've lost the ability to replace textbooks that are lost or damaged. Moneys recouped from lost books are deferred into the general operating fund. Text purchase rotation was once every 7 years, and is now closer to 14 years per department. AP courses use college level texts which are cycled out every six semesters. My current AP text was purchased in 1993 and has been used for eleven semesters.
5. It is increasingly more difficult to maintain quality desks, tables, and chairs. As these items wear out, there's insufficient funds to replace them on a regular basis. The quality of the desks to begin with oftentimes makes them difficult to repair.
6. Trying to abide by the new state standards are going to erode/degrade course offerings as we will be forced to remediate students to pass the test. Along these lines, it is becoming increasingly an exercise in futility to adequately address all of the social studies standards without gutting our existing program. I have not seen any indication that passing such state requirements will enhance a student's ability to get into the university, tech college of his/her choice.
7. As opportunities for student learning come along in the form of special events, field trips to important workshops, and new equipment, the existing budgets cannot accommodate any change without cutting something else. This is difficult to do as an even-up exchange of priorities. More often, we have turned to user fees to allow some students to get the "extras." This only enhances the elitist notion that only those who can afford a better education deserve one. We do try to accommodate those who cannot afford certain opportunities, but one has to

apply/request for such a discount which puts students in the position (that to some) appears to be begging.

8. As districts become increasingly cannibalistic to make ends meet, one has to wonder how much longer we can function this way and still get the job done to the level we're expected to.

**WEAC TESTIMONY ON WTCS FUNDING
SUBMITTED TO
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
APRIL 13, 1999
GIVEN BY: ROBERT J. HENNING, FACULTY MEMBER,
NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

WEAC believes that the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) works effectively to train Wisconsin's workforce. WEAC also believes that the WTCS works to provide Wisconsin's businesses a trained and well-qualified workforce. The WTCS has a long, although largely untold, history of being a strong, stable system that helps maintain Wisconsin's strong and stable economy.

The WTCS may be a relatively small part of Wisconsin's educational system, but in its small, quiet way, the WTCS system has a major impact on Wisconsin.

- One of every nine adults takes at least one WTCS class annually.
- 88% of the graduates stay in the state to work, which leads to increased tax dollars to the state, which leads to a huge impact to the state's economy and standard of living.
- The funding sources for this system is a four way partnership, local, state, federal, and student tuition, with the local resources being the largest part. Over the last few year the states part has dropped from 30% to 20% of aidable costs.
- In a recent report presented to the Northcentral Technical College Board of Trustees it stated that for every dollar of cost of instruction the graduates return approximately two dollars in earning. (report available upon request)

If this system is to continue to get these results, a 0% increase is unacceptable. WEAC urges you to support the general state aid increase requested by the WTCS agency, for a 4.4% and a 4.8% increase.

Further, WEAC opposes the creation of a new work-based learning board. This board is seen as another government entity which shifts WTCS state board and DPI functions. The shifting of Tech-Prep monies to this new board will result in further significant funding losses to the WTCS system.

WEAC views this board as a significant shift in public policy that should be removed from the budget, so that interested parties can have the opportunity to appear at a public hearing, where full and open debate can occur on the creation of such a board.

I thank you for your time. If you have any questions, my business card is attached.
Bob Henning, :- }

Date: April 13, 1999

To: JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
Co-Chairman Mr.Gard & Mr.Burke

From: Harland H. Kirchner
Northern Wis. Area Education Center, Chair:
Wisconsin Health Education System, Secretary

SUBJECT: WISCONSIN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION SYSTEM FUNDING

FIRST: Thank you for holding this hearing in Central Wisconsin. You saved me Three hours of travel time as well as mileage.

CONCERN:Federal Funds for Rural Health have dropped significantly for our next fiscal year. We need an additional amount of \$700,000 over and above the State allocation of \$800,000 to provide the services that we have been providing in rural health. I ask you to support that added amount so that we can continue to provide our distance learning and other "HEALTH" services.

An Example: A couple of years ago, some of us worked with the folks in our neighboring community of Marion and they received a grant to work with UWM on a pilot program to upgrade nurses. During that period they upgraded 35 nurses using video conferencing from Madison to the Clintonville Health Center. The funding and instruction was complete and therefore terminated. Nurses did not have to travel over 10 miles to get this training. This was a great savings in time and travel costs and they were pleased.

I believe that the continuation of these kinds of programs would result in many more of our health providers with an opportunity upgrade their skills and knowledge to help the many underserved people in North Wisconsin.

I believe that I am speaking for most of Wisconsin Rural People when I am making this request to assist in upgrading health care and a health information source for many of our residents.

To Assist in this shortfall of revenue, North Wisconsin AHEC has implemented a Membership Fee to access the HEALTH-NET Medical Information and Support. This should generate approx. \$15,000.

UWM as a Member of the Wisconsin AHEC System is considering providing courses of Medical Instruction on " The Ahec Network" to make it readily available thru AHEC across the State of Wis. A Fee Structure will be implemented for these Credit Courses. Other Members of WHES include Wis. Univ System Schools, The VTAE System Schools, Marshfield Clinic, Gunderson Clinic and many Hospitals, Clinics and Health Groups.

"Thank You for Listening."

P.S. Please also support "Badger Link" a vehicle to keep costs down and greater access to serve the people of Wisconsin.



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Student Government Association
Vice-President

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897 (715) 346-3723
(715) 346-4365

4/13/99

Hello, my name is Jeff Buhrandt and I am the Vice President of the Student Body here at UW-Stevens Point. I would like to thank you for having these hearings at our university today. What I would like to talk to you about today is Tuition Flexibility, otherwise known as Continuing Appropriations, and why it is a bad thing for students, legislators and Wisconsin taxpayers.

The continuing appropriations clause in this budget would, in essence, turn over the power of setting the rate of tuition to the Board of Regents, a non-elected body. This would eliminate legislative oversight, taking power and authority away from you, our elected representatives

Allowing the Board to spend above and beyond what you, our elected legislators have, set as the amounts appropriate for the UW-System is both undemocratic and fiscally irresponsible.

This is not a new part of our budget. Originally, the Board was given a 4 and 7% flexibility for the biennium. Also included in this was a sunset clause that was vetoed. The result was a 13% raise in tuition last biennium, which may be small compared to what the Board could do with this Full Tuition Flexibility.

Personally, I work around 30 hours a week outside of school, while carrying a full load of credits. I receive financial aid in the form of loans and some grants, but the cost of education is still forcing me to spend more and more time delivering sub sandwiches and less time delivering myself a quality education. Here in Point, we have a large non-traditional student population, many of whom raise a family on top of what I just mentioned. We are asking that the UW-System not be funded on the backs of students and their families.

In closing, I would like to ask you on behalf of the 8500 students of this university to remove the continuing appropriations clause from this budget. This can be done by keeping the power of allocating the tax and tuition dollars of my parents, neighbors and fellow students in the hands of those we have elected.

Thank you for your time,


Jeff Buhrandt

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