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BILL NO.-

SUBJECT_

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(Representing)

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but not speaking:

only; Neither for nor against: Speaking for information

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

5-25.2000 DATE:

SUBJECT DUR Budge BILL NO.

(NAME) REHABILITHMON FOR WISCONSIN 4785 HA165 Rd. Suite 202 (Street Address or Route Number) KOBERT STAUM

MADISON 53704

(City and Zip Code)

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(Representing)

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Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 P.O.Box 7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE MAY 25 2000

SUBJECT DVR bodget BILL NO.

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Alisa J. (A.J.) Niehaus 930 Finerald St, #2 (NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

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(City and Zip Code)

Myself & My brother Coston Nichou (Representing)

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Madison, WI 53707-7882 P.O.Box 7882

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1220 Linden, Madison Sirk Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Bets, West, Special Ast for student Assistance and SENATE HEARING SLIP (Street Address or Route Number) (Please Print Plainly) only; Neither for nor against: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 Speaking for information but not speaking: but not speaking: 120 System IN-Syten Registering in Favor: Registering Against: Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against: (City and Zip Code) P.O.Box 7882 NAME) (Representing SUBJECT_ BILL NO. DATE: Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY SENATE HEARING SLIP 00-17-(Street Address or Route Number) SUBJECT FULL DUL Tondin (Please Print Plainly) only; Neither for nor against: Medera Cois Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 but not speaking: Speaking for information but not speaking: Registering Against: Registering in Favor: (City and Zip Codé) Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against: P.O.Box 7882 えれて 00 9 7 (Representing) BILL NO.-(NAME) DATE:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

Madison, WI 53707-7882

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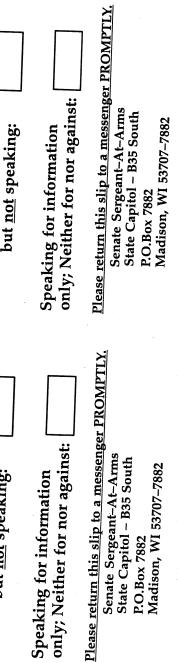
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SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: 5-25-00 BILL NO. Hearing (Robson) OT SUBIECT OV R Shortfall	(budget) (leo jostagordon (NAME)	Steet Address or Route Number) (Street Address or Route Number) (Radian W/ 53705 (City and Zip Code)	\gy\ set	Speaking Against: Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: 5/25/2000 BILL NO. DVR or SUBJECT	Director McBurnay Disability Edseach center (NAME)	(Street Address or Route Number) Madison, WI 53706 (City and Zip Code)	(Representing) Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against: Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
下にいて、いないなりません。 SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: 5 /25/2000 BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR	John Thuesdake Dir Disabled Student Semine	(Street Address or Route Number) (Whytewater, W) (City and Zip Code) (Whytewater) WMSystem	(Representing) Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against: Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol – B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP	DATE: 5/25/0 6	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR Palic	HEFFRON	(NAME)	(Street Address or Route Number)	(City and Zip Code) Wis Technica / (2)/1852	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882
SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: 5/25/00	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR budget	Shortfall - Client Don Wirs	(NAME) MANGER (NAME)	(Street Address or Route Number)	Zip Code)	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol – B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 52707, 7882

(NAME) (NAME) (NAME) Milwaubee, W1 53205 (Street Address or Route Number) DATE: 5-25-00 SUBJECT. BILL NO. 41gong St JOAN M. HONL SENATE HEARING SLIP (Street Address or Route Number) toint (Please Print Plainly) 5/25/60 (City and Zip Code) Jevens SUBJECT / 5110 BILL NO. DATE:_ Comp

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 BUR - Written testimony	(Representing)	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor:	but <u>not</u> speaking:	Kegistering Against:	but <u>not</u> speaking:
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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

Madison, WI 53707-7882

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

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SUBJECT DVR Kula DATE: 180/02 BILL NO.

4616 Seggelkon KN #2 (Street Address or Route Number) Mc taslanl City and Zip Code) De. (NAME)

P.O. Box 05366

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Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 P.O.Box 7882

(Please Print Plainly)

2000 DATE: MAY 25

SUBJECT DUR BUDGGET SHORTFALL BILL NO.

POMO RICHARD (NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number) BOST W. NAIN OF

53703 MAD 150N WI (City and Zip Code)

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(Representing)

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2000 25 DATE: MAY

SUBJECT DVR Budget Shortfall BILL NO.

Milwaukee Co. Executives (Street Address or Route Number) (City and Zip Code) OFFIC Milmanker, WI DON NATYKH (NAME)

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5-25-00 DATE

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Chapelytation (DOR) budget Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. SUBJECT DIVISION OF COCATIONAL 1dd 1875M. WE 53562 (Please Print Plainly) Seft - Withen testimony SENATE HEARING SLIP Street Address or Route Number) 5-25-2000 only; Neither for nor against: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 Speaking for information but not speaking: but not speaking: Registering in Favor: Registering Against: Speaking in Favor: (City and Zip Code) Speaking Against: P.O.Box 7882 (Representing) BILL NO.-DATE:_ (NAME) Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. SUBJECT OVR BUOGET Shownedu SENATE HEARING SLIP (Street Address or Route Number) only; Neither for nor against: (Please Print Plainly) Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South 26th Assembly District Madison, WI 53707-7882 Attending Speaking for information but not speaking: but not speaking: KEL. JOG LEIBHAM Registering in Favor: Registering Against: Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against: (City and Zip Code) P.O.Box 7882 **DATE:** *6*/25/00 (Representing) BILL NO. (NAME)

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Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. only; Neither for nor against: | Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 Speaking for information Regist (City an Speaki Speaki Regist (Repres Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. SENATE HEARING SLIP Street Address or Route Number) only; Neither for nor against: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms (Please Print Plainly) State Capitol - B35 South Madison, WI 53707-7882 Speaking for information but not speaking: P but not speaking: Registering in Favor: Registering Against: Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against: (City and Zip Code) P.O.Box 7882 J 11 P (Representing) BILL NO. SUBJECT NAME)

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

Madison, WI 53707-7882

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DATE: 5-25-00 BILL NO or SUBJECT	(NAME) \$ 704 W. Lawcoster (Street Address or Route Number)	$\frac{Milwaukee}{\text{City and Zip Code}} = 53225$ (City and Zip Code) Se/F (Representing)	Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:

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0	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

State Capitol - B35 South

Madison, WI 53707-7882

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South

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BILL NO. Or SUBJECT Dale 8/ock	(NAME) 97 5 3 6 (Street Address or Route Number)	City and Zip Code) State Industrial To Code State Industrial To Code (Representing)	Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
BILL NO. Or SUBJECT — DUR Budget	(NAME) 708 Pinte St (Street Address or Route Number)	(City and Zip Code) (Sity and Zip Code) (Proll Gunde Health Care Canker (Representing)	Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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DATE:	SILL NO.	SUBJECT —	No. of the second	(NAME)	Street Addr	City and Zip	5.10	Representing

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SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: May, 25, 2000 BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR. Budget	Christopher from (NAME) 5451 N Kent from (Street Address or Route Number) Whitffish Exy WI 53317 (City and Zip Code) Speaking in Favor: Speaking against: but not speaking: but not speaking: but not speaking: Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: 5/25/00 BILL NO. OT SUBJECT DUR Miss management of funds	Roger Behm Roger Rank	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
SENATE HEARING SLIP (Please Print Plainly)	DATE: \$\square \alpha \alpha \square \columbia \	(NAME) Po Row 1006 Street Address or Route Number) Representing Speaking in Favor: But not speaking: but not speaking:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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6-25-00 DATE:

BILL NO.

SUBJECT_

Schololle Knoess (NAME)

(Street Address or Route Number)

70°C

6775 Lo Becher St. (City and Zip Code)

(Representing) - Written testimony West ALUS, WE 53219

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1107 SENATE HEARING SLIP

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5-25-2000

SUBJECT D.V. R. B. Funding BILL NO.

Soxan Herez NAME

8716 S. Wood creek net Street Address or Route Number)

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

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BILL NO. Or SUBJECT	SUC ENDICESS (NAME) 1516 E. New part (Street Address or Route Number)	(City and Zip Code) My Claught	Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison WI 53707-7882

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DATE: 5/25/2000	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR bv dgu	Short fall	Syzz - S- Indians Aus	Milwevlan Wi 532017 (City and Zip Code)	Representing) Coverton Milwerker	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: DVR fund
DATE: 5-25-00	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT DVR Budget	Shortfull Mary L. Mahler	(NAME) (3422 L. Inleain Cu. (Street Address or Route Number)	Milwauben W. 5320/ (City and Zip Code) NAMI-Buts Miles	(Representing) Let - Great Miles.	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: DVR Flund Custulmed due to Budget Appropriet. Dut to But not speaking:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

P.O.Box 7882

only; Neither for nor against:

Speaking for information

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(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 5-25-00	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT	(NAME) (SIAD GREMOOR DR (Street Address or Route Number) (City and Zip Code) (Representing) Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor:
DATE: 5-25-00	BILL NO. Or SUBJECT	KIMBERLY JERMAN (NAME) &SLL SWALLOW PD (Street Address or Route Number) (City and Zip Code) (Representing) Speaking in Favor: Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor:

<u> </u>				
(Representing)	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but <u>not</u> speaking:

City and Zip Code) KANCK COMMUNITY SERVICE	(Representing)	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but not speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882
ity and Zip Code)	(Representing)	Speaking in Favor:	Speaking Against:	Registering in Favor: but <u>not</u> speaking:	Registering Against: but not speaking:	Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

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SUBJECT BILL NO. DATE:

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Speaking in Favor: (Representing)

Speaking Against:

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Colleen Kennedy.

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Drivell Reynolds

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June 3. tot no time!

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John Truesdale

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Saturday, May 13, 2000

Lake

50c NEWSSTAND

1-No. 134 @ Chicago

BUSINESS

Narrower focus

financial advice to specific Niche Web sites that offer groups often have lots of Information, if not profits.

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Listeria settlement

Sara Lee agrees to settle a class-action suit related to ida food poisoning outbreak but amount is disputed.

WEATHER

- Saturday: Cloudy; high 63. ■ Saturday night: Low 40.
 - Sunday: Sun; high 63.
- Report, Sec. 2, Back Page.

night not to lose heart, that one day he would prove to everybody that

he could overcome any obstacle in

On Saturday morning, Cohen, 29,

That day has arrived.

so angry," he said.

But his mother told him that

DETAILED INDEX, PAGE 4

spite physical problems, he was a high school one day and just rolling up like a ball on the bed. I was just wheelchair to get around. But his remember coming home from David Cohen has never been able Elementary and high school in plegic, and he relies on a motorized the northwest suburbs was a challenge, as he fought to prove that deto read or write in conventional Cerebral palsy left him quadri mind is sharp, his memory amaz By Meg McSherry Breslin

Tribune photo by José Mor David Cohen waits for a friend at the Law Building at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Cohen will graduate Saturday.

will graduate from law school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Relying on his memo-

to him, he finished law school as a ry, a voice-activated computer and assistants who took notes and read

Graduating law student David Cohen

'It is one of those things in life which is so sweet. Everybody . . . thought it was impossible.'

Earning law degree is sweet satisfaction for disabled U. of I. student

"It is one of those things in life which is so sweet," Cohen said in his dorm room days before graduation. "Everybody-my brother, my parents-thought it was impossible. and there's nothing like making liars out of people.

era in the continuing civil rights Cohen, an outspoken character with a wry sense of humor and a lawyer's ability to spin a tale, is among a growing number of severe-ly disabled students on college campuses today who represent a new fight for people with disabilities.

Having come of age at a time when federal laws such as the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ushered in new opportu

to revamp old visions of what the disabled can accomplish. selves in new directions, testing nities, many of these higher educa tion students are pushing them their own limitations and working

For many like Cohen, it's clear that the law stands behind them now. The task, then, is convincing the people around them-fellow stuSEE DISABLED, PAGE 2



Disabled:

Severely disabled students are changing visions of what they can accomplish.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents, professors and future employers—that they can do what was once considered impossible.

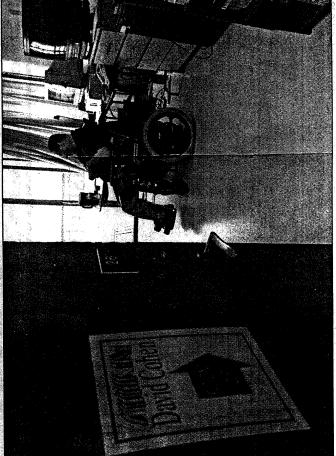
And for Cohen, that job continues. Though he is elated to have finished law school, there are lingering concerns whether employers will get past his limitations. One fellow law student who is quadriplegic graduated a year ago but has yet to find a full-time job.

At the U. of I. law school, a toprated school, Cohen instantly impressed fellow students and professors. Though other disabled students have enrolled over the years, Cohen was the only student in recent memory with such a severe case of cerebral palsy, said Mark Weber, an assistant dean.

Cohen did take longer than the average student-he finished in five years rather than three-but his accomplishment remains remarkable, Weber said.

Law school is a tremendous challenge even for the able-bodied, but for Cohen, it was immeasurably tougher. His morning routine typically takes two hours, as he needs assistants to help him get out of bed, shower and dress. Since he has only limited use of his hands, he needs immeasured, shower and dress. Since he has only limited use of his hands, he needs

someone to feed him every meal. Cohen's medical conditions also



Tribune photos by José Moré

David Cohen lives at Beckwith Hall, a specially equipped dormitory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Cohen, who grew up in the northwest suburbs, finished law school as a B student.

prevented him from staying up for the late-night study sessions, and his vision problems—the muscles in his eyes have trouble tracking from line to line while reading forced him to rely heavily on readers and note takers who accompanied him to class and visited his dorm room. His remarkable memory became his key educational tool, along with his passion for the law. U. of I. law professor Fred Harris,

uts, ne neeus atong with this passion for the taw.

Very meal. U. of I. law professor Fred Harris.

nditions also an African-American whose teach

ing style is much like a Southern Baptist minister, felt like he was su back in a worship hall when Cohen ne

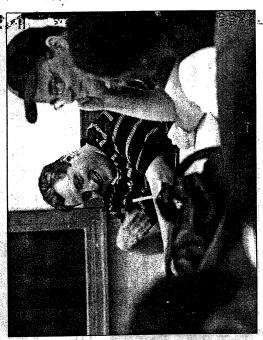
wheeled into class.

"He was just one of the most exuberant students in the whole class,"
Harris said. "He would respond like some members of my church. It was

a sort of a Jewish 'Amen.'
"Just to see him do what he was
doing, laboring under very serious
physical challenges, was just for me
a very heartwarming experience."

Cohen grew up in an especially supportive family. His father, Sidney, an obstetrician, clearly understood his medical disabilities, and his mother, Inis, earned a special education degree to better advocate for her son.

But even his parents had to be convinced that he could make it to law school. When Cohen enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as an undergraduate and told his mom he wanted to be a lawyer,



David Cohen laughs with fellow law students before a final exam.

she asked him to come up with a backup plan.

He ignored the advice and went on to become a student leader on campus. He was the first disabled member to join his fraternity at UW-Whitewater and persuaded his local Delta Chi chapter to build a ramp to accommodate him and other disabled students who might follow. He was also a member of the student senate and won a campus award for his leadership.

After graduation, he pursued his law school dreams, surprising family members by scoring in the top 2 percent in the nation on the law school admissions exam.

The next big accomplishment was his hirring as a summer law clerk for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.Two years later,

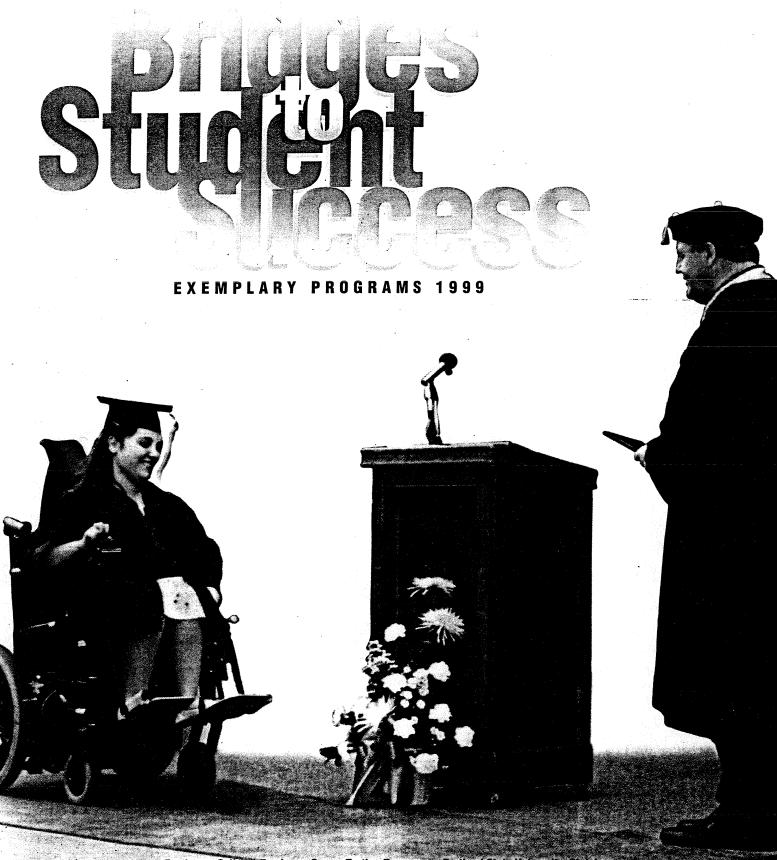
Vast to see him do what he was doing, laboring under very serious physical challenges, was just for me a very heartwarming experience.

he worked as a summer clerk for the U.S. attorney's office for the Northern District of Illinois.

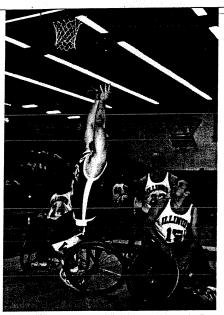
"He did a wonderful job for us," said Steven Butler, an attorney at the Justice Department who supervised him. "In my view, he will make an excellent lawyer. If given the chance, I'm sure he could prove that to others."

NASPA

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education



Fontbonne College: Freshmen Career Testing Program Portland State University: Shrinkrap
University of California, Los Angeles: Academics in the Commons University of Central Florida: Pegasus Student Success Program
University of Massachusetts at Amherst: Project Pulse University of Wisconsin=Whitewater: Services for Disabled Students
Wilson College: Women with Children



The UW-Whitewater wheelchair basketball team has won two national championships.

Processes and Procedures

Student Responsibility

Procedures are based on self-identification and requests for services, supportive documentation, evaluation of the documentation and the request(s), and the provision and coordination of services.

Students are responsible for taking advantage of the program's services, with intervention by staff members when they consider it necessary.

Evaluation

Number One in User Satisfaction

A 1995 institutional survey of satisfaction among current undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni placed Disabled Student Services number one in user satisfaction among graduate students and alumni and number two by undergraduates. The survey evaluated user satisfaction of 45 campus programs.

A study of the 1986 cohort of students with disabilities revealed that, over time, they demonstrated remarkable persistence in completing their initial college degree. By 1993, over 75% had completed their degrees. This compares with an all student body average of slightly more than 50%.

While research sponsored by the National Council on Disabilities revealed a national unemployment rate of 70% for all persons with disabilities, UW-Whitewater graduates have been employed at a rate exceeding 90% over at least the past 10 years.

The program ranks among the highest on campus in attracting extramural funding, and among the highest of any campus program serving students with disabilities in the UW System. Total program funding places the campus among the nation's leaders in this category, based on the Annual Data Bank Survey conducted by the University of Maryland.

Contact Person:

John D. Truesdale, Director **Disabled Student Services** 1004 Roseman Hall **UW-Whitewater** Whitewater, WI 53190 Phone (voice and TDD): (414) 472-4711 Fax: (414) 472-4865

E-Mail: Truesdaj@mail.uww.edu

Web site: http://www.uww.edu/stdrsces/dss/

Dear Senator/Representative

About a year ago, I sent you information about the UW-Whitewater program that provides services for students who happen to have disabilities. I enclosed copies of three articles from national publications which all proclaimed UW-Whitewater to have one of the best programs in the nation serving students with disabilities.

Now I am bringing to your attention the most recent national recognition of the program. The prestigious professional group, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) named us as a recipient of one of their 1999 National Exemplary Program Awards. The awards booklet is enclosed with this letter. The article about UW-Whitewater appears on page 19.

Please note that none of this would have been possible without support over the years from Governors, Legislators, and UW System and campus administrators. However, it is our more than thirty year partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which put us over top.

Why am I taking the time and effort to bring this to your attention? First, you probably have more complaints than kudos about government operations, so its nice to hear something positive from time to time.

Second, UW-Whitewater and DVR, are putting 95% of our graduates with disabilities into the workforce. Your young constituents who happen to have disabilities are becoming productive members of society and are able to live and work independently in the community as taxpayers.

In marked contrast, in 1998, the National Council on Disability (NCOD) commissioned Louis Harris and Associates to conduct a study of the status of persons with disabilities in the United States. One of their key findings was that persons with disabilities were unemployed at a rate of nearly 75%! The human cost to this staggering rate of unemployment is incalculable. The cost to the various branches of government has been estimated to be in excess of \$300 billion per year.

Without going into detail, I have calculated that our individual graduates with severe disabilities may be "worth" between \$1 and \$2 million over their working lifetimes in terms of benefits not received, state and federal taxes paid, social security contributions and contributions to productivity and the stream of the economy. Our graduates have repaid the "cost" of their education and training many times over. However, we are now faced with a major obstacle to continuing this outstanding record.

Many of our students require personal care services in order to attend college. They rely on medical assistance to pay for those services. But the rate of reimbursement for personal care has not kept up with the cost of doing business. As a result, three things have happened, all of them bad. First, more than 90 agencies have stopped providing personal care services over the past two years. Second, those agencies that have continued to provide personal care services are losing money on it. One of the agencies serving our students, reported that they lost \$26,000 last year. Third, the level of wages paid cannot keep up with other jobs in the private sector. As a

result, those agencies trying to stay in business are having a very difficult time recruiting and keeping personal care staff.

UW-Whitewater and DVR will not be able to maintain this outstanding program without legislative intervention. With a record-breaking economy, surely you can find the relatively few dollars it would take to fund personal care services at a rate which would permit us to continue to develop opportunities for Wisconsin citizens with disabilities to take their rightful place in society. You need to bring to the floor and vote for AB 630 and SB397 which will increase the rate of reimbursement to a level which will enable service providers to stay in business. Unless the Assembly and Senate act very soon, thirty UW-Whitewater students who need personal care services will not be able to enroll for the fall semester. And, eight to ten incoming freshmen will not be able to start their college careers.

If you need additional information, please call me at 262-472-4711.

Sincerely,

John D. Truesdale Director, Disabled Student Services University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

P.S. A young woman who was a student in the first semester could not enroll for the second semester because of a medical problem. When she attempted to return to Whitewater, the two personal care agencies could not serve individually or on a shared case basis. They didn't have enough personal care workers. She is in a nursing home at a cost significantly higher than the cost to provide personal care aid in her own apartment. This situation could well be multiplied by forty just in Whitewater without positive action on your part.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging Senator Robson, Chair

May 25, 2000

Good afternoon. I'm John Truesdale, Director of Disabled Student Services at UW-Whitewater for the past 30 years. Prior to that, I worked as a rehabilitation counselor for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for 3 years.

The UW-W program was started with a \$20,000 per year grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to DVR. As a result, we have always had an emphasis on retention, graduation, and employment as the preferred outcomes for our students. This is in contrast to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which only require access to programs, activities, and services. And, we have always emphasized the provision of services to students with severe impairments.

The program has enjoyed support of both houses of legislature and from both parties since its inception. Legislators have always recognized that the issue of disability is bi-partisan and the most recent example of that was the unanimous support in both houses for addressing the crisis in personal care.

With legislative support and our partnership with DVR, the UW-W program has emerged to be one of the largest and best programs of its type in the nation. You recently received a letter and a copy of our 1999 National Exemplary Program Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administration (NASPA). I have bought additional copies to share with you today.

In that letter, I pointed out that the rate of unemployment for all persons with disabilities in about 75% nationally and that the fiscal cost to the various levels of government exceeds \$300 billion per year. The human cost is incalculable.

At UW-W, our graduates are being employed at a rate of 90-95% over time. DVR case service expenditures per student for the 1999 Federal fiscal year was about \$3,800 or roughly \$15 to \$20 thousand to degree status. In addition, we have a cooperative agreement contracts for rehabilitation technology, work experience and auxiliary aids and tutors. This combination has worked very well and created a lot of taxpayers who are living and working independently in the community and making contributions to their communities and the economy.

For example, two of our former students are practicing medicine from their wheelchairs. Several have gone on to law school, graduate school and so on. Without going into detail, it has been calculated that individual graduates with severe disabilities may be "worth" between \$1 and \$2 million over this working lifetime in terms of benefits not received, state and deferral taxes paid, social security contributions, and contributions to productivity and the stream of the economy. Our graduates repay the "cost" of their education and training many times over.

While we have a concentration of DVR students/clients with severe and multiple impairments at UW-W, all of our campuses are represented to a greater or lesser degree. We rely on our partnership with DVR to provide these successful outcomes.

By proceeding in this way, about 80% of the funding comes from the federal government and Wisconsin taxpayers only have to come with a 20% match. This is a great deal. Since the high tech stock market has dropped, I don't know where else to go for that kind of return on investment. And, it is certainly better than spending 100% state tax dollars when the Federal resources are available.

We need to continue this partnership and have it fully funded by these matching dollars and we need to continue to work with the framework of our existing interagency agreement while a new one is framed based on the existing principles of the current document.

Tommy G. Thompson Governor

Linda Stewart, Ph.D. Secretary



State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

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Testimony on the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Budget
May 25, 2000
Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging

Good Afternoon Chairperson Robson and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging. I am Orlando Canto, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development and with me today is Tom Dixon, Administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Tom Smith our Budget Director.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide you with information concerning the projected budget shortfall in the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) for the current fiscal year.

DVR is a federal state program designed to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain, maintain, or improve employment. We operate primarily under the federal Rehabilitation Act.

The Rehabilitation Act states that its purpose is to:

- (1) [To] empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into society.
- (2) [To] ensure that the Federal Government plays a leadership role in promoting the employment of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with significant disabilities, and in assisting States and providers of services in fulfilling the aspirations of such individuals with disabilities for meaningful and gainful employment and independent living.

Funding for DVR is provided under a state-federal match scheme where the state provides approximately 21% of the dollars and they are matched by approximately 79%

federal dollars up to a funding ceiling established for each state. The formula for setting the dollar amounts is based on several factors including the general population and the disabled population; the utilization of past allotments; and the job market. Since the job market portion is determined by unemployment – the lower the unemployment the lower the allocation.

For FFY2000, Wisconsin's allotment from the federal government is \$47,576,336. We will claim all the federal funds assigned to the state. Wisconsin has always claimed and used all the available federal funds designated to us.

DVR is not a program where someone drives through, selects a prosthesis off the shelf, and drives out with a job in hand. Frequently, people who come to us have never worked, may suffer from depressive complications of their disability, have had a life completely changed or altered by an accident or injury, have no idea where or how they can participate in the workforce, and in many cases, require almost extraordinary psychological and developmental measure to become employable and employed.

We work with people who have never seen or walked. We work with quadriplegics, who cannot use any part of their body below the neck, but are now gainfully employed, developing websites, where before they would have been in an institution for life at a cost of \$50,000 per year and an incalculable human cost. We are serving persons with severe and persistent mental illness who before would have been in and out of institutions at great cost in human lives and taxpayer money.

Over the last two years, our reengineering efforts have produced positive results. We have staff located in 60 Job Centers throughout the state. Our accessibility to consumers has increased dramatically as well as the numbers of referrals of people with disabilities to DVR. We have streamlined the application and service procedures resulting in quicker response. Our time to eligibility determination has declined almost 50% from about 60 days to approximately 33 days. Our time to service provision has also declined significantly. However, the improvements have come at a cost of greater numbers of consumers, with greater levels of disabilities, seeking our services. In particular, the increase in DVR services for the severely disabled has had a substantial

budget impact; severely disabled cases cost on average \$322 more per case than less severely disabled cases.

Costs for assistive technology, university and technical college tuition, and a variety of other service areas have also contributed to the rise in our costs. These cases require more services and take more time. We expect these caseloads and costs to continue to rise as we serve greater numbers at higher costs.

Recent articles have portrayed DVR as being in a funding crisis and allegedly delaying and denying services to eligible consumers. As a result and as a consequence of complaints from the Client Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council, the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) recently conducted an "on-site" investigation in light of the projected shortfall. While we welcome RSA's review and suggestions for improving the fiscal aspects of our DVR program, it is unfortunate that their conclusions were portrayed in the media before they even began their investigation. Also, we would like to clarify that at no time did the Department refuse to provide them with information needed for their investigation.

Over the past month, several allegations have been made which we respond to here:

DVR does not have enough money to serve its present consumers.

This is not true. The agency did face a projected shortfall when expenditures and future encumbrances were combined, which for accounting purposes they must. However, we were able to appropriately cancel a number of encumbrances that were either not expended or were premature and instituted a review system of current purchases to make sure that, under these tight fiscal circumstances, we were only making purchases that were absolutely necessary and appropriate.

The Department also immediately began an internal search for dollars to cover any DVR shortfall and to avoid having to delay or deny services to any eligible consumers. The Department has committed \$1.2 million in additional funds to provide DVR services to the disabled population.

It is true that we are evaluating all of our present commitments, costs, caseloads and demands to assess the matching of our dollars to consumer needs. We will take the actions necessary to work within the budget that we have for the remainder of the biennium.

Was there any way to prepare in advance for this funding difficulty?

The Department established the DVR case aids budget based upon prior trends and history. We prepared the State Plan for Rehabilitation services using this budget data and on the trends that we saw at the time. We would have had to anticipate an approximate 20% increase in caseload activity and costs. What became evident in January and February was that prior year trends did not apply this year. We believe this was caused by the unexpected positive impact of reengineering efforts. We felt it was a departmental responsibility to exhaust all avenues of relief before going to the legislature for help. We are also aware of the limited resources of the Joint Finance Committee.

It has been suggested by the Rehabilitation Services Agency and the
 Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council that the only avenue available to the
 Department was to close additional categories of Order of Selection (OOS).

The Rehabilitation Act allows programs to create categories of severity to determine service needs. Wisconsin has created seven categories of service, "A" being the category for the most severely disabled and "G" the category for the least severely disabled. The law allows programs to close categories of service as a way of adjusting the demands for service and the dollars available. There are several salient facts you should be aware of when addressing this issue. First, using OOS as an advance tool for addressing budgetary issues requires a crystal ball to ascertain how many persons, with what kind of disabilities will show up in the future seeking services, and then closing categories the program does not feel it has the resources to serve.

Second, closing <u>any</u> category of service means that people with disabilities, who need the expertise and experience of a rehabilitation counselor and the training and

other services DVR offers, are not going to get it. The system contemplates that other referral sources will pick up the slack but there is little evidence that this is true yet. Thus, the "fix" of closing categories is a denial of service to substantial numbers of people with disabilities and work limitations.

Third, this is a time that presents the greatest opportunity ever for people with disabilities to break down the barriers and go to work. The workforce is, practically speaking, at full employment. Employers are begging for workers and have begun to open up and work with persons never before in the workforce. It is the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The federal government is considering waivers that will allow persons receiving SSI and SSDI to retain certain medical benefits and provide other protections that would allow them to go to work. Our Pathways to Independence Project is one of the first and most innovative demonstration and research projects in the country and, except for the necessary federal waivers, is well on its way to fulfilling its goals. It is a time when we should expand our efforts to persons with disabilities to enter the workforce, rather that restricting them to only the most severely disabled, if at all possible. The Department is committed to serving as many consumers as we can consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act.

Services have been denied and delayed to conserve dollars and avert the crises.

It is not now nor has it ever been the policy of DWD or DVR to delay or deny services to eligible consumers pursuing their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). There was some confusion in the field; however, we have clarified this policy and followed up on cases brought to our attention alleging a delay or denial of services. What is also happening now is proper decision-making by counselors and their managers regarding the appropriateness of the timing of purchases for consumers. Let me give you some examples:

One consumer receives funding to complete an Associate Degree in Computer Programming and complete one course toward a Bachelor's Degree. He recently requested funding for an \$8,000 Internet training program and a \$3,000

WEB based training program so he "wouldn't have to sit around for the summer". This was not part of his IPE and his original goals under his IPE have not yet been completed. He was offered assistance in finding work for the summer and we continue to work with him. In this case, a denial of the new services requested would be appropriate under the circumstances.

Another DVR consumer's case was recently in the media. We had rented a computer and paid for internet services for two years for the individual to use in her studies while attending graduate school. She subsequently quit school, so we discontinued the rental of the computer and internet services as it was no longer needed for her rehabilitation plan. We continue to work with her to identify alternatives and find employment. To the public, the story was "they cut me off from services"; to the agency, we were implementing good oversight and fiscal management – the service was not needed as a part of her plan.

Another person also alleged in the news that we were not serving them because of funding. The truth is that person came to us wanting an education but they did not want to work and had no job goal. In other words, they wanted services, but were not willing to work. We did not find the individual eligible for DVR services.

Have any delays or denials occurred as a result of this shortfall? There was a period of time when some confusion may have existed in the field as to how to handle purchases under stringent budget conditions. The process of carefully reviewing purchases at a higher management level certainly slowed purchases compared to their previous streamlined delivery level. But because of the projected over-expenditure, a careful management analysis was required to ensure prudent spending. We take full responsibility for any confusion, but the Department has been clear and unequivocal in its direction not to delay or deny purchases. DVR handles thousands of purchasing decisions. If any inappropriate delay or denial occurred, it was the result of some short-term confusion that should no longer exist in the field.

 Another allegation has been that DVR is "creaming", or handling easier cases at least cost in order not to close case services to the less severely disabled.

This is false. The severely disable make up an increasing percentage of our caseload. In 1997, the severely disabled made up 78% of the DVR caseload. In 2000, it has increased to 87%. Our caseloads have been increasing over the last two years at a substantial rate, especially in the more difficult to severe categories. The number of persons served and the amounts expended in the top 3, categories which count the most severely disabled, have increased dramatically every year. We have been doing precisely what is contemplated by the Rehabilitation Act and 1998 Amendments – serving the most severely disabled.

oos	FFY	FFY	Total Change	% Change
Category	1997	2000		
Α	6,307	7,366	1,059	17%
В	5,829	6,927	1,098	19%
С	6,723	8,636	1,913	28%
Total	18,859	22,929	4,070	22%

 Vendors claim that we are referring fewer individuals to their programs or cutting off services.

We have approximately 3400 vendors with whom we do business each year. We purchase more than \$10,000 in goods and services in a year from more than 400 of these vendors. The largest vendor by far is the UW System where we spend approximately \$5 million each year. The Wisconsin Technical College System as a group, comprise our second largest vendor at approximately \$3.2 million. We anticipate purchases of more than \$600,000 from Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin. Other vendors who will provide services that total more than \$200,000 this year include: Opportunities Incorporated in Jefferson County, Independence First in Milwaukee, Curative Rehabilitation Center in Green Bay, Riverfront in La Crosse, and Badger Association for the Blind in Milwaukee.

We have private vendors from whom we purchase equipment and other services that will total more than \$100,000 such as New Horizons, Adaptive Experts, Adaptive Information Systems, Telesensory Midwest and Adaptive Technology Resources.

One of our priorities is collaboration with partners. We are seeking ways to work with other programs who may share responsibility or perhaps have the legal responsibility to provide funding. Examples of this include W-2 and child care funding, auxiliary aids such as interpreter services, note taking for individuals attending post secondary institutions, long term support services for supported employment consumers, and of course, our Workforce Investment Act partners. We are looking to collaborate with partners inside and outside the Department to access other resources that will allow us to help more people with disabilities to go to work.

The Department is evaluating our current fiscal situation and what our future needs will be. The Division has undertaken numerous steps to evaluate expenditures, work with other partners to help fill the gaps and to develop policies to ensure the most efficacious spending within our fixed budget. To conserve our resources, we have also examined our policies for changes or improvements we could implement. Some examples include:

- (1) We have reduced counselor spending authority in order to develop better review and decision-making practices;
- (2) We are establishing new fee schedules for fees and services;
- (3) We are training on and encouraging better use of referrals to other providers under the comparable benefits provisions of the law;
- (4) We provided additional training to the staff on informed choice to provide clarity for both staff and consumers; and,
- (5) We have issued more clarification and guidance on the issue of providing for basic living needs, since DVR was not ever intended to be a basic living program.

We make a difference. In 1999, DVR had 4,165 successful closures, according to federal record keeping (which in our view greatly underestimates people served, who go

to work but do not credit DVR with assistance). Those rehabilitations resulted in annualized earnings of \$63,866,505.00 and taxes paid of \$9,385,082.00. They also resulted in Public Assistance reductions of \$11,427,216.00 for the year. We are working to increase our placement rates to help more and more of the disabled population enter Wisconsin's workforce.

When asked if DVR counselors are readily available to provide service in five key areas, consumers answer "quickly" or "very quickly" in 80-86% of the responses. Almost 80% rate their current job as good and 85% say they would refer a friend with a disability to DVR. These numbers far exceed the comparable numbers in private business.

This funding dilemma is largely the result of the positive effects of the reengineering of DVR to a more consumer friendly, timely and accessible program with larger caseloads, quicker service, more severity in the overall caseloads, longer case service times and ultimately more expense. However, we do recognize that there is room for improved budget management. With new information and new assumptions in place, we will work to better project expenses in FY2001 and consider all options, including Order of Selection.

We look forward to working with the Committee to insure Wisconsin's DVR program remains widely accessible and fiscally sound.

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	GP	R PORTION	FE	D PORTION	All	Funds Amount
Case Aids Budget	\$	5,248,900	\$	19,393,823	\$	24,642,723
YTD Expenditures on WiSMART 5/23 (Includes credit of \$243,500 to GPR and \$899,600 to FED from the Gaming funds)	\$	5,419,690	\$	20,024,863	\$	25,444,552
Total Encumbrances on WiSMART 5/23	\$	1,227,905	\$	4,536,908	\$	5,764,814
Balance of Funds Remaining for SFY00	<u>\$</u>	(1,398,695)	\$	(5,167,948)	\$	(6,566,643)
Projected expenditures: or retinalitide rota FY						
May - June Estimate	\$	(200,000)	\$	(738,967)	\$	(938,967) ⁻
Estimated Shortfall	\$	(1,598,695)	\$	(5,906,915)	\$	(7,505,610)
Available Credits "999" Social Security Reimbursement Revenue	\$	685,221	\$	2,531,779	\$	3,217,000
SFY00 Year-End Balance Remaining	\$	(913,474)	\$	(3,375,136)	\$	(4,288,610)
Department Reallocations	\$	1,125,000	\$	4,156,690	\$	5,281,690
Year-End Funding Surplus or Shortfall	\$	211,526	\$	781,554	\$	993,080

My name is Linda Gerry. I live in Middleton.

I've had chronic pain for about 9 years.

In those 9 years, I have also been through a divorce.

My children and I had to move.

I lost my car in an auto accident where my daughter was injured.

My only means of providing for my children and myself is through my ex-spouse paying child support and maintenance.

But when my ex-spouse left his job two years ago, I had to go on welfare.

I applied for social security benefits, received food stamps and medical help for my children.

I applied for christmas gifts for my children and even had to ask for help to put gas in my car and changing the oil.

I lost my medical insurance then and now all my chronic pain treatments are considered to be pre-existing conditions and are not covered by insurance.

In spite of all this, without DVR's assistance, encouragement and support of its counselors through resources and financial help, I would not be where I am today. I would not be striving to be more independent at the level that I am now able to. I would not be as able to care for my children and myself and be working toward being a more active and contributing member of society.
When I surst come to DUR. I was a physical, emotoral mesa and my life was a

Without DVR's help, I would not have been able to return to college working toward a career in journalism. When I first started back to college in 1998, I paid for the first semester because I didn't know if I could succeed even with four credits of course work. With DVR's help, I now have a 3.95 cumulative grade point average.

Without DVR's help and the DVR counselor's and programs at MATC, I think I would be pretty desperate as far as career options and choices and the possibilities of being a contributing member of society.

I'm deeply indebted to and thankful for DVR for the opportunities and support afforded to me. I hope that other chronic pain sufferers trying to make their lives better for themselves and their families are given similar opportunities.



Date:

May 25, 2000

To:

Senator Judy Robson, Chairperson

Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging

From:

Jim Strachota, Charperson

Re:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Budget Shortfall

Thank you for having this hearing today. The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities is very concerned about the continuing budget shortfalls experienced by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The shortfalls occur on an annual basis and are a long-standing problem. Consumers attempting to access DVR services have encountered denials, delays, and reductions due to the lack of funds available to serve them, in violation of the Rehabilitation Act.

These shortfalls are a continuing problem in large part because of a state policy decision to reduce GPR funding in favor of third-party match. For the most part, however, third-party match is not working. An overemphasis on and inappropriate use of third-party match erodes case service dollars, especially for people with severe disabilities and developmental disabilities. It also skews services and dollars toward people with less severe disabilities, and props up state programs at the expense of providing individualized services that the client wants and needs. The inappropriate use of third-party match is also counter to the philosophy and requirements of the Rehabilitation Act.

The Council is also concerned about the philosophical differences between the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and DVR. As mandated by the Rehabilitation Act, DVR must serve people with the most severe disabilities first. People with severe disabilities are often costly and time-consuming to serve. DWD does not have the same priority, and seems more interested in serving individuals quickly and at the least amount of cost. The administrative centralization at DWD has resulted in DWD taking over all the financial control and monitoring capability from DVR. This has resulted in serious fiscal monitoring and tracking deficiencies which contributed to this latest crisis.

Recommendations to correct the shortfall:

- Add GPR funding to capture all federal funding available to Wisconsin.
- Ensure that DVR and DWD adhere to the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act, making individuals with the most severe disabilities the priority to receive services which will help them maximize their abilities and achievements.
- When budget shortfalls do occur, DVR must be allowed to use Order of Selection (and waiting lists) to manage the crisis and ensure people with severe disabilities receive appropriate and necessary services.
- Institute long-term solutions that bring fiscal stability and reduce uncertainty and fear, rather than short-term band-aid "fixes" that only delay he crisis for another three months.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Ondrejka, Executive Director, at (608) 266-1166.
600 Williamson Street PO Box 7851 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7851



DAVID

May 26, 2000

Senator Judy Robson State Capitol P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

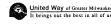
Dear Senator Robson,

I would like to thank you for holding a hearing to discuss the DVR budget crisis. I attended that hearing yesterday and did not have an opportunity to testify. I would like to comment as a consumer and as a Wisconsin Rehabilitation Counsel member, and as an advocate.

I have a severe disability, and I have received DVR services twice. On the first occasion I was initially told that I should not consider working, but that I should stay home, collect SSI and find a good man. I fought for services and eventually they helped me with schooling. I was able to obtain a degree, but received no placement assistance. The employment I eventually found on my own lacked accommodations. The second time I went to DVR I was desperate. I had lost several jobs, and did not want to live on Social Security. I had a hard time justifying my disability and needed to supply medical documentation. My counselors were not familiar with cognitive disabilities. DVR helped me with one semester of schooling and I interned at the agency that eventually hired me. DVR did help me with on the job accommodations, however I found the process to be extremely stressful, complex, and lengthy. I was grateful for DVR's assistance, but I would have appreciated an easier process.

As a member of the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Counsel member and as an advocate I have been following the evolution of the budget crisis for over three years. I support Linda Vegoe's testimony. I am very concerned about the third party issue. In 1992 third party funding comprised only 2.3% of the DVR budget, in 2001 it will be 24.3 % of the budget. I believe that this type of expenditure denies consumers the ability to choose the most effective and appropriate services. I also object to service dollars being used for administrative purposes, such as salaries. DVR should put more energy into encouraging Universities and Technical Schools to comply with their obligations under 504 and the ADA, thereby reducing the need for consumer specific educational accommodations. I support the use of Order of Selection to limit the demand for service dollars. I also support the use of GPR funds to fully match Federal dollars. This will give counselors more opportunities to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities.

As an advocate I have received a number of calls from consumers who have had trouble with DVR. There have been complaints of withdrawls of funding support such as being asked to finish paying for a specific training program. Post employment accommodations are frequently denied. Non-profits are being asked to pay for equipment and services that DVR should be paying for. Fee for service providers are not receiving DVR referrals, which may result in staff layoffs. When DVR resumes providing evaluation and training services, they may have a



difficult time finding a vendor. These types of calls put a very personal face on an impersonal

I liked the statement that people with disabilities need complete services. Thorough evaluations and training, complete equipment packages, etc are not "Cadillac" services. They are a necessity if people with disabilities are to obtain Substantial Gainful Employment. DVR needs to get its budget under control so that people with disabilities can become contributors to our economy.

Sincerely,
Quelle elerande

Julie Alexander, M.S.

Independent Living Coordinator

Senator Robert Wirch Senator Gwnedolynne Moore Senator Peggy Rosensweig Senator Carol Roessler June 20,2000

Senator Judith Robson Chair, Senate Committee, Human Services/Aging 15 South Capitol Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Robson,

This letter is my written testimony for your committee hearing, on the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) budget shortfall, held May 25, 2000. Unfortunately I was unable to stay and testify that day. My reasons for testifying were twofold: To praise DVR for the good services my client received, (but also question some of their service practices), and to request higher funding for DVR. Please include this letter in the hearing records.

First, I advocate for a person who has multiple disabilities and is classified by DVR as severe category 13. Because of their financial and counseling support my client has completed the first phase of her education plan by receiving a two year Human Services Degree from the Madison Area Technical College, MATC, (in the beginning she was not sure she could even complete that degree).

This positive and rewarding experience gave her confidence to plan for a Bachelors Degree in Psychology or Social Work from the U. of Wisconsin. Now her plan has completely changed because she got a job, for financial reasons, at the same place she took her Human Services Practicum. This job has lower pay, no benefits, and irregular hours.

pvR says she has reached her goal and is now employed and will not pay for further education or services. With disabilities and only a two year degree she is unable to get a good paying job. She may even loose some of her SSID benefits needed for medications which are very expensive. I believe this DVR "service practice" is due to lack of funding for even the most severe category (it is committed to serving first). With a shortfall what services can they promise?

My client is a very very intelligent person with mild CP and severe learning disabilities who requires assistive technology (DVR bought her a used computer and paid for lessons), a notetaker, taped books, extra time for tests and other accommodations including transportation. Because DVR paid for tuition, books, a computer and other services my client has a new outlook on life and is sure she can get her bachelors degree, maybe even a Masters Degree in Psychology. She has hope for a brighter future and wants to become a taxpaying, contributing member of society.

Second, because of the good DVR can do, please encourage increased funding to DVR. Do not commingle funding with other departments if it dilutes funding to DVR. Please allocate sufficient funds to secure all our entire federal money for the current FFY and future years. I do not agree with service based on Order of Selection. This does not serve all the people with disabilities who need and deserve help. My client may not have qualified for DVR services if not for having multiple disabilities even though a learning disability alone may be very debilitating.

Thank you for having the hearing and for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shug,

Kathryn Shuq

a concerned parent and advocate for people with disabilities

Kathryn Shug 5322 Lighthouse Bay Drive Madison, WI 53704

June 20,2000

Senator Judith Robson Chair, Senate Committee, Human Services/Aging 15 South Capitol Madison, WI 53703

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Thank you for having the hearing and for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shug,

Kathryn Shug

a concerned parent and advocate for people with disabilities

To: State Senator Judy Robson

From: Ari Vaza

Re: Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) - Denial of Services

This memo is to set forth for you and your committee an example of how the DVR has denied services and not kept its promises.

In May 1999, I signed the DVR's Individualized Plan for Employment, a contract form that had been filled out with my DVR counselor describing both my responsibilities and those of the DVR for retraining and job placement. My job counselor also signed this on behalf of the DVR. We had talked, together with Jerry Meysembourg (head of the Aberg Avenue DVR office), and determined the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) was the best place for me to get the specific training I needed, since I had already taken graphics courses at both MATC and the UW-Madison. Because I am in my 50s and speak with an accent, we thought I would have difficulty getting a new job, and that I would need extra training by the best school in the nation to find work. A copy of the Employment Plan is attached.

In June 1999, the counselor and I both worked with the staff at the Rochester Institute of Technology to ascertain the best courses for my retraining. A copy of the email from RIT to the DVR counselor dated July 1, 1999 is attached. The classes and dates listed constituted my plan of retraining.

By the time I had taken courses through early October, I still had not received the computer I needed to practice on and do work. Therefore, I asked my DVR counselor if I could postpone taking the last two seminars scheduled in November 1999 until after I had practiced and learned more thoroughly the material I had already been taught. A copy of his letter dated October 25, 1999 is attached. It confirms that the DVR supported deferral of the two additional training workshops at RIT until after I had received and set up the computer and practiced my newly acquired skills.

I received the computer in late December, had difficulties with the initial set-up, and finally could begin to practice in January. During the fall and winter, I was working with an outside contractor who helped me with writing the cover letters and resume, as well as my interview skills, and sent out over 100 resumes. I got only the opportunity to interview based on the letters and resumes, and that turned out to be for a job that did not exist at the time.

In January 2000, I wrote an email to my DVR counselor stating that I was getting worried because my disability insurance was running out in April, I did not have a job, and I did

not see any prospects for getting one because I had already applied to all the major printers in Dane County. I wrote to him, "I want to work and believe I am qualified in my field," but it was in the context that I was not getting a job and I did not know what more could be done to help me find a job, and I was seeking his assistance. A copy of this email is attached.

I met with my counselor and he suggested I try to find volunteer work, and I did eventually find a place where my skills and talents are valued – but not with money. It has given me a place to practice what I know and learn more, in exchange for my volunteered time.

On March 1, 2000, I sent an email to my DVR counselor requesting an opportunity to go to a conference held by the Printing Industries of Minnesota (PIM) in Minneapolis on May 4-6, where there would be seminars and ways to meet many potential employers, since several hundred people attend this convention each year. My DVR counselor replied that "this would then supplant the training I confirmed that the DVR would support in my October 25, 1999 letter to you confirming that DVR would support two future additional training classes at RIT. If this is acceptable, I will need...". Later in March, he rescinded my attending the PIM event altogether.

Sen. Robson, the two seminars at RIT each consisted of three full days (8-4) of small classes, with personalized attention for each student. The PIM seminars were 3 hours long and intended not so much to educate as to update. These are two very different forms of seminars and are not interchangeable in my mind. I was stunned, and very upset. I called the Client Assistance Program, and the Complaint Investigator visited my DVR counselor in April. Her letter to me of April 16, 2000 is attached. She cited the DVR's "serious financial problem" in inferring to me why I was denied the training as well as additional software and training materials I had requested in March 2000.

Following her reply, my DVR counselor wrote to me on April 20, 2000, a copy of which is attached. As you can see, he has flat out denied me what training was included in my original Plan of Employment but which I had deferred so I could learn more when I took the classes. Also in this letter, he wrote about the services that would be provided by a "Job Placement Specialist" of Job Service. The extent of Ms. Richard's involvement in my case has been an introductory meeting we had on May 5th at my DVR counselor's office. Later, she asked, through my DVR counselor, for a clean copy of my resume and cover letter, which I delivered by hand to the DVR Aberg Avenue office. She has not written to me by letter or email, she has not spoken to me, and to the best of my knowledge, she has done nothing for me that involves me.

In May, feeling very frustrated and hopeless, I contacted Rep. Berceau's office. Rep. Berceau and her legislative assistant, Thomas Powell, spent a great deal of time to try to help me. However, as can be seen in the attached letter dated May 24, 2000, from her office to me, they were also unable to change the DVR's denial of services to me except that the DVR has agreed to let me use a credit from a vendor to buy software. The credit expired this week, but the vendor has extended it. Unfortunately, the \$211.73 is not

enough to cover the software I need from that vendor, and I have not found anything else to purchase there.

One last item: I agreed to work with the Vocational Rehabilitation Economic Development program, which offers potential employers a financial incentive to effect a successful employment of disabled workers. The only job for someone in prepress printing work the office found was in Green Bay. I explained that I have a family and we do not have very much money – certainly not enough to move to Green Bay. I asked who would pay my moving expenses and help me find affordable housing there that I could get without a deposit, since I have no longer any savings left and we live hand-to-mouth. My DVR counselor told me that I would have to do that myself. However, it is nearly two months since my resume was referred there, and the company has not gotten back to the DVR counselor who is handling it in Green Bay.

Yesterday, when I received the letter from Rep. Berceau, I decided to file an appeal with CAP, and it was mailed yesterday.

Finally, I have attached an excerpt from the recently updated online resource, "Wisconsin VR Program Policy" found as a link through the DVR's home page. You will note that the last paragraph on the "Order of Selection" section indicates:

"This policy does not effect a consumer whose plan for employment was developed prior to the implementation date of order of selection, or those who are in need of post-employment services."

If the DVR has reneged on its written contract with me because of its now limited resources, it does so wrongly based on my reading of this. I am troubled that CAP did not tell me about this, that my DVR counselor has chosen to ignore this, and that the words appear to be meaningless in their application to my suffering.

Sen. Robson, I appreciate the work you and your committee are doing to hold this hearing, and I hope my written information about the denial of services to me is helpful. Anything you and your committee could do to help me get these services would be much appreciated.

MY EMPLOYMENT PLAN

Name: Ar, Va	2 a_	ID #: /	MD 349	733	
My long term employment g	goal is:	Polor St	pecial	12 %	
The date that I will reach my	goal:	eptenk	per, 99		
What must be done to achieve Retraining Job place	7				
506 D	tion e evelop	meeting my emp of key & ment & I Thly con	ourses Placema	ent	
Services	Starting Dates	Providers	Who is responsible for paying	Methods of Payments	
Retraining Job Placement	6/99 5/99	RIT	DVR/cIt/e	,,	tract
					,
NAME:		ID	#:		

RESPONSIBILITIES

Etc.	
1) Complete retraining	
@ meet with job development	/ Placement
3 follow thru with interview DVR's responsibilities are:	Ds, meetings, etc.
Provide monthly counseling and guidance, transportation, etc.	
Ofunding for retraining a funding for Jop 12/aceman	
a) funding for Jop placemen	X
Other party's responsibilities are:	LI askerdi
1) Job development - meet wit employers, provide Ari W/j	n porental
employers, provide Ari w/j	06 reads, cour
Ari W/ resume + interview 8.0	westons
I have been offered the choice to develop my own plan.	x Yes ☐ No
I have been offered assistance in creating my employment plan. No	x Yes
I have been given choices to assist me in creating my employment p	olan. Yes No
Comments regarding plan development (OPTIONAL):	-
This is a good start.	
I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF MY INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.	¥ Yes□ No
X DATE	EX 5/28/95
SIGNATURE /	
DAT	E:
CONSUMER 'S REPRESENTATIVE (IF APPROPRIATE)	5//
Chari Haglen DATI	E: 128/99
COUNSELOR SIGNATURÉ	

My responsibilities are: to cooperate w/ DVR. Followup with appts, maintain my medications,

Individualized Plan for Employment

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

MSN Home Hotmail Web Search

Shopping Money

People & Chat



Garden Sweepsta **CLICK HERETO ENTER**

Hotmail® vazaari@hotmail.com

Inbox

Compose

Addresses

Folders Options Calendar

Help

DVR

Dave Tontarski <dct1020@ritvax.isc.rit.edu> Save Address - Block Sender

Reply-To: dct1020@ritvax.isc.rit.edu

To:

haglich@dwd.state.wi.us Save Address

Subject: RIT - Ari Vaza

Date:

Thu, 01 Jul 1999 13:46:34 -0400

Reply

Reply All

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Previous

Next

Close

Chari,

Following are the schduled programs, with program fees, that I recommend that Mr. Vaza enroll in:

Jul 19-20	Acrobat 4 Workflow Workshop	\$670.50
Jul 21-23	QuarkXPress 4 Workshop	\$850.50
Aug 5-6	Designing & Preflighting (register	with PIM)
Aug 16-18	Digital Photography Workshop	\$805.50
Aug 24-27	Digital Color Prepress Level I	\$1165.50
Sep 14-16 Sep 27-29 Sep 30-Oct 2	Digital Color Prepress Level II InDesign Workshop \$895 Adobe Photoshop Workshop Level I \$71	\$1165.50 .50 5.50
Oct 5-6	Preflight & Digital Workflow Workshop	\$1165.50
Nov 11-13	Adobe Photoshop Workshop Level II	\$805.50
Nov 18-20	Digital Photography to Prepress	\$985.50

Total Program Fees:

\$9225.00

These prices represent a 10% program fee discount. This discount was extended on the basis of RIT wishing to assist Mr. Vaza in his rehabilitation. This is a special, unpublished discount provided by RIT program management.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I will be out of my office through 7/12. Please contact me by email if necessary.

Sincerely,

David Tontarski 716-475-2759

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(Move to Selected Folder)

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Compose

Addresses

Folders Options Calendar

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