

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Linda Stewart
Secretary

Thomas E. Dixon
Division Administrator



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
1819 Aberg Ave., Suite E
Madison, WI 53704
Voice: (608) 242-4800
TTY: (608) 242-4868
Toll Free: 1-800-422-7138
FAX: (608) 242-4869
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr>

October 25, 1999

Mr. Ari Vaza
7417 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53717

Dear Mr. Vaza:

At your request I write to confirm that DVR will support two additional training workshops at Rochester Institute of Technology. These include:

1. Adobe PhotoShop – Workshop #2.
2. Digital Photography and Prepress.

I spoke with Brian Schappel of Four Lakes Color Graphics regarding the estimated delivery time of your DVR funded MacIntosh G4 computer. Based on his estimate, it appears unlikely that the G4 computer will be delivered to you prior to the scheduled November training dates for the above classes.

Therefore, you and I agreed to defer these trainings until after you receive and set up your G4 computer. With this arrangement, you will be able to practice your newly acquired skills on your new computer after your return from training.

Please keep me informed as to the next training dates you wish to attend, as well as your itinerary to include dates of departure and return, and hotel reservations.

Please contact me at the number below with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joel Wolfgram'.

Joel Wolfgram, M.S.
242-4859

c. file



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Insert Address Attachments Add Stationery

To: wolfgjo@dwd.state.wi.us

Subject: Meeting with You

Cc: Bcc:

Check Spelling Dictionary Thesaurus

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Dear Joel,

I have applied to all the printing businesses in the Madison area, and followed up with phone calls. Thus far, I have had two interviews, both of which did not lead to a job. In addition, some of the places which have listed available employment have not contacted me after I have applied.

Also, Joel, my disability insurance runs out in April, and I will be left with no income. I am feeling quite anxious now, as that is very soon when one is looking for a job. Joel, I want to work and I believe I am qualified and skilled in my field.

Therefore, I believe it is time for us to meet and discuss how to proceed. Please let me know the best time I can come to learn how the DVR can help me more. There is nothing more for Steve to do at this point because I have exhausted all the places locally. I am now emailing resumes all over the country.

Ari Y. Vaza
Email: vazaari@hotmail.com

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Inbox

From: "Wolfgram, Joel" <WOLFGJO@dwd.state.wi.us> [Save Address](#) - [Block Sender](#)

To: 'ari vaza' <vazaari@hotmail.com> [Save Address](#)

Subject: RE: MidWest Graphics 2000 Convention

Date: Wed, 1 Mar 2000 16:35:19 -0600

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Ari:

I somehow unsuccessfully attempted to e-mail you last night with an update of my progress in contacting employers you have contacted.

I have spoken with staff from Discover Color and Perry Judd's. Neither of the staff in the Human Resources/Employment Services departments of these business have any record of applications. They have not requested or received references. I have not been able to successfully send a faxed consent form to Quad Graphics, but have spoken with the staff and they appear willing to speak with me. I will attempt to resend the faxed consent form tomorrow.

In response to your request to attend the PIM gathering May 4-6, this would then supplant the training I confirmed that 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 actual costs for the car rental, the hotel, and estimates for your gas, food, and misc. expenses. Of course, I will need receipts for the money which will be directly paid to you, as well as a refund of any money you did not spend. In addition, please provide me with information on where to send the authorizations for the PIM conference, the car and the hotel.

I plan on calling you tomorrow to discuss the above issues in greater detail.

Take Care,

Joel Wolfgram

> -----Original Message-----

> From: ari vaza [SMTP:vazaari@hotmail.com]

> Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2000 2:28 PM

> To: wolfgjo@dwd.state.wi.us

> Subject: MidWest Graphics 2000 Convention

>

> Hi Joel,

> Although I still await your reply, I feel I need to add another major event

> that will take place in Minnesota, May 4-6, because my job search is dead-ended at the moment. I was invited to attend Printing Industries of

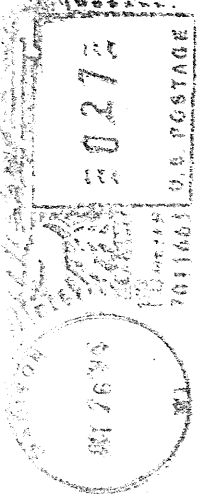
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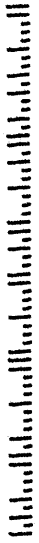
**State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development**

DVR-723 (R. 12/98)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1819 Alberg Ave., Suite E
Madison, WI 53704-4201

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Mr. Ari Vaza
7417 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53717

AUTO 53717 



State of Wisconsin
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

April 16, 2000

Ari Vaza
1915 Regent Street
Madison, WI. 53705

Dear Mr. Vaza:

As I informed you, Wisconsin DVR is experiencing a serious financial problem. It has caused them to scrutinize the level of assistance they can provide each consumer.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is unable to represent you in an appeal at this time. I believe DVR will argue that they can reduce assistance during a fiscal crisis as long as it is done fairly and across the board. [Ferritti v. Commonwealth Department of Public Welfare, 91 Pa Cmwlth]

Due to the high volume of complaint calls that CAP is receiving from all over Wisconsin, we know the reductions are being applied to all DVR consumers. We are attempting to provide information and assistance to all callers, which limits our ability to represent individuals in appeals.

You have the right to appeal this issue without CAP representation. The DVR appeal process can address the denial of a service. It cannot address a state's failure to fully fund DVR case services budget. That is a legislative issue. Your appeal would need to address how DVR's decision to deny funding for the 4 PIM seminars you requested to attend, will clearly prevent you from reaching your employment goal. We believe that is the only viable approach to an appeal at this time.

Your counselor did agree to provide you both job placement services and utilization of the Vocational Rehabilitation Economic Development (VRED) program.

Your case will be closed in the CAP office. Please keep in mind that this does not affect the status of any vocational rehabilitation services you are receiving.

I am asking that you complete the enclosed evaluation form so that we at CAP can evaluate the effectiveness of the program. For your convenience, a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Per your request, I have enclosed a request for hearing form. If you decide to proceed with an appeal, you would need to complete this form and forward to Angela Pitt at 2917 International Lane PO Box 7904 Madison, WI 53707-7904.

If you have any concerns in the future do not hesitate to call the Wisconsin CAP office.

Good luck in your pursuit to find employment in the graphic arts field.

Sincerely,



Deb Henderson-Guenther
Complaint Investigator
Client Assistance Program

Enclosure

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Linda Stewart
Secretary

Thomas E. Dixon
Division Administrator



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

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April 20, 2000

Mr. Ari Vaza
1915 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53704

I am writing to address questions you may have regarding our provision of necessary and reasonable services to effect an appropriate vocational outcome for you.

Regarding the issue of further vocational skill training. DVR will not fund additional vocational skill training at this time. This decision is based in part on your January 20 2000 e-mail communication to me in which you state that, "I want to work and believe I am qualified in my field."

Following her review of your DVR file, Ms. Deborah Henderson-Guenther of the Client Assistance Program has apparently agreed with our decision not to fund additional training.

I want to reassert DVR's commitment to work with you in your job search efforts. I have recently referred you to Job Placement Specialist Ms. Chris Richard of Job Service, located in the Dane County Job Center. DVR's cooperative agreement with Job Service provides job placement services for DVR clients exclusively through Ms. Richard. As an integral tool in the job search process, Ms. Richard can offer available funds through the Vocational Rehabilitation Economic Development program as a financial incentive to potential employers to effect a successful employment outcome for you. I have enclosed a copy of the VRED brochure that describes the program.

In addition, I am enclosing a copy of a potential job lead as announced through the DVR Green Bay office. DVR Counselor Ms. Sandra Valentine will be following up with the employer – Moore Graphics, to hopefully develop an interview for you, for the position of "Pre-Production Technician." This employment opportunity is available through an employer that is participating in the VRED process. Please do not contact the employer at this time. I have provided Ms. Valentine with a copy of your resume. Ms. Valentine is in the process of contacting the employer to determine if they are currently accepting applications. I will contact you regarding the status of the job with Moore Graphics, and subsequent actions to take if the employer is interested in interviewing you.

Please contact me to inform me of dates and times you are available to meet with Ms. Richard and me.

As always, please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joel Wolfgram", followed by a horizontal line.

Joel Wolfgram, M.S.
242-4859

enclosure: VRED brochure
Job description

c. file
Ms. Deborah Henderson-Guenther
Ms. Chris Richard



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TERESE BERCEAU

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

76TH DISTRICT

Mr. Ari Vaza
1915 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705

May 24, 2000

Dear Mr. Vaza,

This letter is to confirm that my office has looked into your situation as it relates to your claim that your computer pre-press training as supplied through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation was prematurely terminated, and that you were assured of two courses that were subsequently cancelled by DVR staff.

I find that your claims are accurate insofar as the two courses, Photoshop Level II and Digital Photography to Pre-press were, to the best of our knowledge, originally submitted to the DVR as part of your training plan, but were subsequently denied you by DVR staff. This seems to be in contradiction with the DVR "Individual Rights for Plan for Employment" policy paper that states, "Before substantial changes are made to my plan, I will have a chance to discuss them with my counselor, and I must agree before the plan is changes."

Mr. Vaza also claims that he was assured of being supplied Colorblind software, and related equipment which was also denied him.

My office has repeatedly been in contract with the DVR in order to see if these two courses could be funded for you, but the DVR has declined to do so. The position of the DVR is that your training is sufficient at present to enable you to seek a position in your new field, that you have stated so, and that adequate financial and staff resources has been expended for you. The DVR refuses to change their position in this regard. I am afraid we have come to a standstill in your case, and cannot mediate an agreement that is acceptable to both parties. I regret that I cannot help you further in this regard.

Sincerely,

Terese Berceau
State Representative
76th District

[text-only version](#)



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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation			
Department of Workforce Development			

Welcome to DVR!

DVR Programs
DVR Offices & Personnel
Services for Persons with Disabilities
Services for Employers
Information for Service Providers
Partner Relationships
Other DVR Information
Training Opportunities
VR Related Resources

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) works together with people with disabilities to provide an array of employment-related services statewide. We are Wisconsin's primary provider of employment services for people with disabilities.

DVR also provides services for employers tailored to the individual needs of employers ready to hire qualified individuals.

Our Mission: To obtain, maintain and improve employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR consumers, employers and other partners.

Our Values:

- *Tell the truth*
- *Keep your promises*
- *Be fair*
- *Respect the individual*
- *Expect Quality*

- [DVR Programs.](#)
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State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

			
Other State Agencies	Services for Job Seekers	Services for Employers	DWD Internet Home

Your comments or suggestions for the DVR Web site are WELCOME!
Are you are having difficulty accessing any part of the DVR Web Site or require an alternate format? Please send a message to us using the "Feedback" button at the top of each page or send via e-mail to dwd@dvr@dwd.state.wi.us. Thank you for visiting!

This page was last updated 04/18/00

Excerpted from DVR Home Page link on May 25, 2000

DVR Home

Wisconsin VR Program Policy
Updated: February 15, 2000
Disclaimer

- Table of Contents.
- Foreward.
- I. General Policies.
- II. Entry Policies.
- III. Receiving Services Policies.
- IV. Closure Policies.
- Appendix - Temporary.

III. Receiving Services Policies:

Order of Selection

At any time DVR resources do not permit all eligible consumers to be served, an order of selection for services shall be implemented giving first priority to consumers with the most significant disabilities. Second priority shall be given to consumers with significant disabilities and third priority to those with non-significant disabilities. All eligible consumers within an open priority of service category must be served.

A consumer has a most significant disability if he/she has three or more significant functional limitations and requires multiple services over an extended period of time.

A consumer has a significant disability if he/she has a severe mental or physical impairment that seriously limits one or more functional capacities in terms of an employment outcome and whose vocational rehabilitation requires multiple services over an extended period of time.

After a consumer is found eligible for VR services, an order of selection determination is completed. An assessment of additional data, to the extent needed to make this determination, may be conducted. The VR counselor, jointly with each consumer, shall evaluate his/her functional limitations and anticipated scope of services in the order of selection determination.

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.

May 26, 2000

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

Dear Senator Robson,

I attended the DVR hearings yesterday, and did not have an opportunity to testify. I submitted a single copy of written testimony, but wanted to add some comments based on what I heard while I was at the hearing.

First I would like to thank you for holding the hearing. I appreciate the chance to comment. I feel like I understand the issues better and I am happy to see that some improvements may be made. Like many others, I have found the process of applying for and actually receiving services from DVR has been extremely difficult.

As I listened to Tom Dixon's testimony yesterday, I felt that he was denying the very real problems that DVR has and the length of time these problems have existed. He seemed to characterize the people that were critical of DVR as "whiners" and malcontents. He seemed to insinuate that people were asking for things they didn't deserve. My experience has been that people who need these services would not go through all of the trouble of applying, being made eligible, developing a plan, going through evaluations, etc if they did not truly need it. If I and others could "just get a job", we would not be asking for help. Like me, many people have tried to get jobs on their own and failed, and that is why we ask for help.

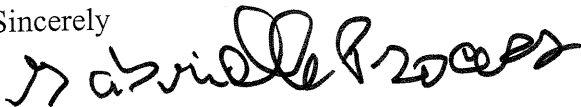
Some of my biggest problems have been with un-helpful counselors. I would have appreciated referrals or direction when the counselor was not able to help me. I was given none. I have repeatedly asked for placement assistance, and have never received any. I don't understand why an agency that is supposed to help people with disabilities get jobs can't provide placement assistance. I also feel that the length of time it takes to get services is unrealistic.

I liked what I heard during Linda Vegoe's testimony. I support the implementation of Order of Selection and the idea of taking money from third party contracts and using it for direct services.

I am concerned that a State Agency is not able to keep track of its own budget. I am a taxpayer. I want to know where my money is going, and what it is being used for. Two budget crises means something is wrong. My job is changing. I may need DVR in the future. I want them to be there for me. They need to have funding, and they need to serve people with disabilities.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify. You may reach me at 414-329-9834 need any additional information.

Sincerely



Gabrielle Process
6775 W. Becher, #206
West Allis, WI 53219

Senator Robert Wirch
Senator Gwnedolynne Moore
Senator Peggy Rosensweig
Senator Carol Roessler

May 25, 2000

**Kay Dimeo
and son- Joel Niffenegger**

N 2652 County Road V
Lodi, WI 53555-1569

E-mail address- Proverbs427@hotmail.com

592-7300

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO
PLEASE GIVE THIS LETTER IMMEDIATELY TO**

SENATOR JUDITH ROBSON

Senator Judith Robson

Chair

Committee on Human Services and Aging

Room 15 South Wing
State Capital
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Robson and Senate Committee:

First, I would personally like to send my very most sincere *THANK YOU* to Senator Robson and Paul D. Kluz for setting up the hearings to be heard over the Internet on the World Wide Web!! This allowed us to hear many of the testimonies that otherwise we would not have been able to hear. We are so very appreciative for every person who set this service up and/or requested this be activated over the World Wide Web!! We sincerely and strongly encourage hearings like this be held regularly over the World Wide Web, because it is truly a great public service!!

We also did come to the special public hearing today, May 25, 2000, concerning the current fiscal and budget crisis of DVR, but we could not stay to hear the entire hearing and were not able to testify. Yet, I would very much have liked to have testified today. Unfortunately, I could not stay because I have four children and one of my two children that has severe disabilities had to have me at home when he got back from school. (We are still on the waiting list for respite services, and other than me, we have no other person that can take care of my child then.) Yet, I was still at the special public Committee hearing today with my youngest daughter who is two years old and my oldest son who will be nineteen years old in a couple of days, and who is gifted, but also has a developmental disability. **Secondly, I would REALLY like to *THANK YOU ALL* very sincerely for calling this special public hearing, having this special hearing and staying for many, many hours to hear the very last person testify ending close to 7:30 p.m. at night!!**

Third, I wanted to share and add our personal and human story to hopefully shed some kind of light on a very, very complex budget crisis with DVR. The DVR budget crisis has been a major crisis for my family also, and my older son's entire future is hanging in the balance, and I knew that I needed to express the severity of this current situation with DVR. My son's lack of DVR funding goes back to services and expenses that were provided LAST college year! We heard many heart wrenching situations and testimonies today, and ours is one of those very, very sad and unfortunate situations. Yet at the same time, I could NOT believe and TOTALLY DISAGREE with few people of non-disabled people testifying today that, as part of the solution to the current and possible future budget problems with DVR, to eliminate a huge number of DVR clients down to ONLY serve some set amount of 17,000 DVR Clients instead of the current 23,000 some people. I kept wondering what happens to that 6,000

some DVR Clients that get dropped and put on waiting lists??? **Both of my two son's have developmental disabilities, and I have a disability myself.** I know first hand what waiting lists do and how destructive waiting lists are and how VERY NEGATIVELY WAITING LISTS AFFECT people with disabilities!! For example, my youngest son who has Autism (along with a vast number of other related disabilities) is on a **five year waiting list for other services!!!!** **Waiting lists ONLY serve to cause MORE problems to more people already EXTREMELY burdened with enough problems due to their disability. And I have NOT seen one thing positive about waiting lists!!!!** **How can someone honestly weigh by some check list, which people who have disabilities should be put on a waiting list???** How can someone, especially someone NON-disabled, judge by some check list, who's disability is not severe???? All disabilities restrict a person in some major way and this will affect employment. As one person that was **NOT** disabled testified **first** at the Hearing (named Linda), her main suggestion to the Hearing Committee was for there to be a selective list, and only the most profoundly severely disabled receive services from DVR (while other people with disabilities be put on waiting lists). So the (supposedly, according to a selective list) "less" disabled are to be placed on a waiting list??? That does **NOT** make sense, because these people **all** have disabilities that prevent them from getting employment, which is why they came to DVR in the first place. **So how many YEARS will all of these disabled people be on this proposed waiting list????** **And if a person has been waiting list for five years and someone else with a disability just applies to DVR without ever waiting at all, does this disabled person that has been on a five year waiting list continue to wait because DVR considers another person with a disability more disabled????** Then how can a person with a disability on this waiting list ever get off this waiting list???? **Waiting lists are not a solution!!!!!!** **Waiting lists ONLY create more problems to an already complex, complicated and out of date system at DVR.**

We see a lot of the problem being when the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation went into and combined under the Department of Workforce Development because this added layers and layers of more complex management, departments and people to an already complex and confusing system of DVR. The way DVR runs seems to be extremely ancient and inefficient in that the client must call DVR by telephone to get prior approval for services before **ANY** expense or service is to be provided and approved by DVR. Many of these DVR Counselors have **150-200 DVR Clients**, and these DVR Counselors are often impossible to **EVER** be reached by telephone! Then add on top of the fact that the DVR Client **MUST** first contact the DVR Counselor by telephone **BEFORE** ANY service or expense is to be approved and provided by DVR, despite the fact that this is usually already in writing on their individual DVR written plan. **Then add to all of this that my son's DVR Counselor did NOT even have voice mail or an answer machine so the DVR Counselor is impossible to ever get a hold of by telephone.** In addition to this problem, when a DVR Client does finally get a hold of their DVR Counselor by telephone, she/he has to go back to **their** DVR Supervisor to receive approval for the service or expense. And then that DVR Supervisor often has to go back to her/his DVR boss for approval, so it sometimes takes many months to process (and is further complicated by the fact that it is so extremely difficult to get a hold of the DVR Counselor by telephone). At least since last fall of 1999, the whole approval process for any service and/or expense can take 3-6 months or more, and then add to the entire problem that all the DVR approves for payments (from what we were informed) must go through this Department of Workforce Development, which adds another month or two at least to what was already 3-6 months process. **No wonder DVR has no idea of their budget and where all the funds are going. Because it is very difficult to track costs that may have been approved 3-8 months before payment was ever issued by DVR. The entire system is very inefficient and runs in a very archaic matter!!**

We wanted to apply our son earlier to DVR, but, instead, DVR kept telling us to WAIT and WAIT before I would have my son apply for services for DVR. But by the second semester of his senior year, the last school year of high school (1999), we felt we could WAIT no longer, because we needed answers long ago to plan for my son's future employment and schooling. In February 1999 my son sent in a DVR application, despite the fact that DVR told him to **wait** to send in his DVR application until the interview in March of 1999 to apply formally to DVR. Yet, we knew that DVR had to start the application time of 60 days to let us know if my son qualified for DVR from the actual date that DVR **received** his written DVR application. DVR did **not** ever tell us this, but I researched this on my own, because my son was always told by DVR to **WAIT TO APPLY TO DVR.** Yet, for financial aid for college one needs to apply as soon as possible after January 1st each year, because, like many things, financial aid is a first come/first served basis. **It was May of 1999 and my son was about to graduate from high school, and we had NOT heard a**

word if my son qualified for services for DVR, despite the fact that he applied to DVR Back in February of 1999.

(3.)

DVR by law is supposed to respond and let one know if they qualify for DVR services within 60 days from when DVR receives the written DVR application. We called DVR numerous times and finally talked to a DVR Supervisor who could **NOT find ANY record/file** of our son's DVR application sent to DVR in February of 1999 or the DVR notes/record from our son's interview with DVR in March of 1999. The DVR Supervisor had to do a lot of investigating and looking at DVR before they ever **found** our son's DVR file and records at DVR - in late May of 1999. **Our son qualified for DVR and DVR services, but because of this delay, he almost did not get into college! Up to the very end and even to this day, we do NOT know what is going to happen with our son and his entire future.**

Everything in my son's future hangs in the balance because of DVR! I can not begin to tell you and express in written words what our family went through with all of this back then, and what we have gone through since last fall of 1999. I also have a disability and stay home with my four children ages 2-18 years old, and my two older children have developmental disabilities. I have sacrificed more than I can ever explain in here for my main goal, that being that **all** of my children be self-sufficient, productive, hard working members of society (and tax payers). Two of my older children have disabilities, but also, at the same time, they are very gifted, special and have unique talents that, if given the opportunity, could go on to college and/or be employed to be self-sufficient, productive, hard working members of society.

Since last fall of 1999, my son has unpaid services and expenses that now total close to \$1700.00 that DVR was supposed to pay. And recently were told that DVR may not pay for these services. I was instructed by DVR to pay for these different DVR services listed in my son's DVR written plan, and to bill DVR, and they would reimburse me for these DVR costs approved by DVR. I did this but it would take up to 3-6 months to pay for these services to be provided by DVR, and since LAST fall of 1999, DVR has not paid for DVR expenses that I was told by DVR to bill DVR for. My older son - Joel, who is in college, for example needed a tutor. But the University of Platteville Student Services for Disabilities does **NOT** provide a tutor for classes that the UWP considers to be **advanced** classes. And other than private tutors that charge per hour, there are **no** other tutors for students with disabilities at the UWP that take more advance classes. As I understand it, UWP said that they consider an advance class above the 250 range. In an Engineering degree, about **all** the classes that my son **MUST** take are these advanced classes that the UWP does **not** provide a student with disabilities a tutor for. **Yet, a private tutor or note taker can NOT wait 3-6 months or more to get paid from DVR, and get caught in the budget problems of DVR.** We had a difficult time even ever finding a tutor to pay per hour, and never did find a note taker. Why did my son go to the University of WI-Platteville??? Because Joel has the talent and math skills to be an Electrical Engineer and **ONLY** Platteville, Milwaukee and Madison have Engineering at the University of WI colleges. My son was offered a scholarship at Milwaukee School of Engineering, but even with the scholarship, this private college cost **more** than any of the University of WI colleges. DVR told us, just like that other woman testified at the Special Public Hearing today, that the person with a disability (my son) could go to the Milwaukee School of Engineering, but DVR would **only** pay what the University of WI college tuition would cost. What DVR **fails** to recognize and understand was that Milwaukee School of Engineering would provide at **NO** cost so many, many more disability services that the public college would **charge** DVR extra for, or NOT provide these services at the public college so that DVR would have to pay someone else to provide. My oldest son with a developmental disability came from a very small high school and with our son's disability, (and considering that DVR would **ONLY** pay what the public university would charge for tuition), that left my son basically no other choice than to go to the public college that did offer a Engineering Degree and this was the University of WI- Platteville, which was a smaller size school which he was used to. This is how and why my son went to the University of Platteville. I can tell you that the UWP really **lacks** help for students with disabilities, and UW-Platteville students with disabilities **really** totally depend on DVR for help and services! We noticed that no one from the University of WI- Platteville, to our knowledge, was at this Special Hearing today. Unfortunately, UW-Whitewater does **NOT** offer Engineering, and Joel had Engineering classes in his first semester of his Freshman year of college at UW-Platteville. Now please keep in mind that the private college would have provided Joel almost all services for students with disabilities at **NO** extra cost to DVR or anyone, but the private college tuition does cost more. Yet, most services for the students with disabilities at the UWP are almost all an extra cost to the student and DVR. Also, it is **extremely** difficult to find someone at the UWP to provide these services for a student with a disabilities. Again, it is extremely difficult at UWP to even finding anyone who will provide students with disabilities services **even for this extra cost.** This is problem in itself, because my son Joel has **no** means to

get off campus to get private services, does not drive, and, unlike Madison or Milwaukee, there is no bus nor cab (4.) system at Platteville.

We submitted bills and a letter last **January of 2000** to DVR for services already provided and approved by DVR for my son according to his DVR written plan. We heard nothing from my son's DVR Counselor concerning payment for these college related expenses and services already provided and approved by DVR, but unfortunately we were not alarmed because DVR **ALWAYS** seems to take **MONTHS** to pay for services and products **ALREADY** provided. Yet, we sent a **SECOND** (another) letter and these billings in the end of **February of 2000**, but still heard **NOTHING** from DVR, except for receiving a letter in the middle of February 2000 from DVR saying my son's DVR Counselor had retired. **AGAIN**, after our letter and billing was re-sent at the end of February, we heard **NOTHING** from DVR, but the letter from Joel's counselor about retiring after the fact. **So we again wrote another THIRD letter to DVR and the billing in March of 2000 and contacted the Client Assistance Program again, and finally at the end of March 2000 we received the first letter from DVR concerning the billing from the LAST fall of 1999.** Then we and CAP replied right back, but DVR's position was to **WAIT** until our son was done with his final exams at the UWP and then meet to discuss these billings. **No one from DVR said anything about their current budget problem and no funding, but we learned of this from the CAP and the newspapers.** My son's case is currently being handled by a **limited-term** DVR Counselor since my son's DVR Counselor retired, but at **first** we were told that Joel's case was being handled by the DVR Supervisor of my son's retired DVR Counselor. **But after calling for about an entire month and getting NO response, we were later told that this limited-term DVR employee was in charge of my son's case, but again this limited-term DVR Counselor has NO answer machine or NO voice mail. Who even knows for sure who is in charge of my son's DVR case???** We met with this **limited-term** DVR Counselor, and what is to be my son's new DVR Counselor on May 22, 2000 and CAP. We were originally told by this limited-term DVR Counselor that a DVR Supervisor would be at this May 22, 2000 meeting and we would receive answers then. But we got **NO** answers then and the DVR Supervisor was **NOT** at the meeting with us and DVR on May 22, 2000!!!! **We still do NOT know to this day if DVR is going to honor their commitment of paying for services DVR approved by the DVR counselor that retired, which are according to his written agreed upon DVR plan.** A lot of these services go back to last fall of 1999, still unpaid and may never be paid by DVR, which is what DVR has said at different points during this whole deal. DVR is questioning why the retired DVR counselor, for example, approved of paying for transportation. It is all a mess! **In my opinion DVR in my son's case just simply kept EXTREMELY POOR DVR RECORDS!!!! Even in the beginning DVR itself could NOT, at first, even find the record/file of my son applying and meeting with DVR. We can NOT appeal this situation because, so far, DVR has NOT formally denied ANY of these bills for LAST college year, but yet DVR has verbally mentioned that they may NOT pay some of these billings, although DVR will NOT say for sure. This puts my son's situation in a total mess!!** Also, DVR has asked my son for records that my son has **ALREADY** provided DVR with two or three times!!!! DVR has already admitted verbally that my son's retired DVR Counselor kept very poor records and left his file a mess. And then add DVR's lack of and very poor communication to their DVR Clients, and this is a major reason why DVR has ran out of funds.

My son needed to plan for fall of 2000 DVR services, and send in UWP paper and DVR deposit for UWP housing **TWO MONTHS AGO** for **NEXT FALL** of 2000 at the University of Platteville, but we can **NOT** even get an answer from DVR on **payment** about services provided **LAST** fall of 1999!! How can a DVR continue to operate and serve people this way???? Last fall my son almost ended up without housing because DVR is so slow to respond and keeps everyone completely in the dark on what they are doing and going to do. We had this May 22, 2000 meeting with DVR set up about a month prior to the meeting with DVR (and were told the DVR supervisor would be at the meeting on 5-22-00), and were told we would get answers then and there (on 5-22-00) as to what DVR was going to pay from **LAST** college year. **But NO DVR Supervisor was at this May 22 DVR meeting and all we received at that May 22 DVR meeting was that ANY and ALL payment(s) would have to be approved by a higher up person at DVR, and no one DVR person at the meeting could say IF and WHEN that would transpire!!!!!!!**

So we do **NOT** know to this date if our son can continue with his college **needs** for next fall of 2000, because we still do **not** have payment from services and expenses from **LAST** college year!! Yet our son was supposed to

have his housing deposit LAST month for next fall (please see the enclosed letter from the University of Platteville). It is a UWP requirement in order to attend college at the UWP to BOTH live in the UWP dorms, and have a UWP food/meal plan through the UWP, unless the UWP student is married, the UWP student has a child, the UWP student is a junior or senior in college or lives with near by relative. Please note that students that attend the UWP can NOT GET WAIVED out of the UWP policy/requirement (in order to ATTEND the UWP) for BOTH having the UWP dorm housing AND the UWP food plan due to financial problems. We have heard it said that DVR will NOT pay a penny toward EITHER the UWP dorm room NOR the UWP meal/food plan at the UWP this coming fall of 2000. My son gets financial aide, but last year this only covered about half of his costs, which included the UWP room/board and UWP meal/ food plan that Joel was REQUIRED BY THE UWP TO PARTICIPATE IN AS A REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND THE UWP. Furthermore, going to school full time with a load of 12-15 credits, and in ALL advanced classes for Engineering and not able to drive, my son can not work and go to college both at the very same time. Due to my son's disability, the Evaluator for DVR said that Joel should NOT work AND go to college at the same time. Although very intelligent, Joel has a disability that makes it take him longer to complete college homework and exams.

How is my son- Joel going to fund the rest of these UWP required expenses if DVR refuses to pay what DVR originally agreed to pay for UWP dorm room costs and UWP meal/food plan that the UWP requires EVERY UWP Student to pay for as a requirement to attend the UWP???? PLUS, WHY IS DVR SAYING CURRENTLY THAT DVR MAY NOT PAY FOR BOTH MY SON'S UWP ROOM/BOARD AND A UWP MEAL PLAN WHEN THIS WAS ORIGINALLY AGREED BY DVR TO PAY FOR THESE COSTS, AND ALL OF THESE ARE ON MY SON'S WRITTEN DVR PLAN????? And when will DVR know if DVR will pay for these costs to allow my son to attend the UWP????????? No one from DVR seems to know and can NOT even tell my son WHEN DVR will give my son ANY answer on whether DVR will pay for these UWP costs for next fall that MUST be paid as a requirement to attend the UWP. And we/ my son can NOT appeal DVR decision(s) because DVR has NOT made ANY DECISIONS ON MY SON'S DVR CASE AND IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS. ALSO, DVR WILL NOT EVEN TELL MY SON WHEN DVR WILL MAKE ANY DECISIONS ON MY SON' CASE. When will DVR make a formal decision to pay for DVR expenses and DVR services of almost \$1700. provided LAST college school year (that my son's retired DVR Counselor PREVIOUSLY APPROVED for DVR to pay months ago BEFORE this DVR Counselor ever retired from DVR)????? And who currently is in charge of my son's DVR case??????? Who will we ever give us any answers to any of this?????????.....and when??????

DVR could be so helpful for people with disabilities, but extremely poor/non-existent record keeping by DVR, DVR complete lack of any proper communications to many DVR Clients, keeping most DVR clients in the total dark for several months on end, DVR's archaic systems for doing all DVR approvals for any service or expense provided by DVR, and all of the huge layers and layers of departments/supervisors between DVR and the Department of Workforce> all of these contribute to the MAIN reasons for DVR's current budget crisis and continual budget deficits at DVR.

I know this is complicated and, therefore, long, but **VERY SINCERELY THANK YOU** for taking the time to read all of this!!!!*** PLEASE, PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS LETTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!!
Looking forward to your prompt response to this letter. **Thank You!!!!

Sincerely,



Kay Dimeo and my son-Joel Niffenegger



Encl-3University of Wisconsin-Platteville letter dated May 1, 2000

Please Note

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE

May 1, 2000
Dear Resident:

My son - Joel Niffenegger received this letter from the UWP because my son has been waiting on DVR for several months for out if DVR is going to keep the agreement to pay for these costs - so my son can attend UWP.

After reviewing Advance Room Sign-up data from April 10 - 17, it does not appear that you have registered for a space in the residence halls for the 2000-01 academic year. Board of Regents Policy of the University of Wisconsin System states that all freshman and sophomore students at UW Platteville must live in the residence halls unless they qualify for an exception to the residency requirement and are officially released in writing by the Associate Director of Student Housing.

As you may be a student at UW Platteville next fall and will have either freshman or sophomore status (less than 60 earned credits recognized by UWP), you need to complete the attached form to document your compliance with this policy or request an exception to the policy. Requests based on special circumstances, especially those based on complaints about ability to study or possible financial savings by living elsewhere, are almost never approved. Possible consequences for noncompliance are serious and may have both financial and student status implications. For example, room charges may be added by this department to the university bill of any student who is not in compliance. These are the charges proposed for the 2000-01 year:

- \$ 905.00 Double room rental (per student per semester)
- \$ 100.00 Rental prepayment for the fall semester
- Total for fall semester = \$1005.00
- Total for spring semester = \$805.00
- Grand total for room rental for 2000-01 = \$1810.00

Waiting on DVR to provide this \$100 deposit so my son can register for a space for next fall at UWP, which is required by UWP to attend the UWP.

As a freshman or sophomore, you may also be obligated to a meal plan contract with Glenview Commons if you are not in compliance with the freshman/sophomore policy or released by Student Housing from that policy. Meal plan fees could be as much as \$902 per semester.

As you can see, failure to be in compliance carries significant consequences which could total \$3614. This residency requirement must be taken seriously by you, as well as our department. Whether or not you preregistered for classes for Fall 2000, the policy requiring freshmen and sophomores to live in residence halls will apply. If you think that you won't return to UWP, and you decide to return at anytime this summer, the policy requiring freshmen and sophomores to live in residence halls will apply to you. Even if you get a mailing from any other University department this summer that refers to you as a "commuter," you are not released from the freshman/sophomore policy unless you have a release letter on Student Housing letterhead signed by me.

Some will not need to do anything in response to this letter. For example, if you are not returning to school next semester, this does not apply to you. However, if you are unsure of your status or did not sign-up for a space within the residence halls during room reservations, please come to the Housing Office as soon as possible and definitely before May 12, 2000.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. Good luck with your finals and/or special projects!

Sincerely,

Rhonda L. Viney
Rhonda L. Viney
Associate Director of Student Housing

Enclosure

J:\WPFILES\Room Signup\LETTERS\No Reservation 00-01.wpd

Office of Student Housing
(608) 342-1845 Fax: (608) 342-1847

1 University Plaza • Platteville, WI 53818-3099 • www.uwplatt.edu

because DVR will not respond to what DVR is going to do on my son's case? Can my son continue at UWP by having DVR funding?

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION BOARD OF REGENTS RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

UW-System Board of Regents Residency Requirement (Policy 173, May 5, 1972): "Those freshman and sophomore students who are not veterans, married or living with parents or legal guardians, shall be required to live in a university-operated residence hall when such accommodations are available..."

If you would like to request an exemption from this requirement, please complete this form, check the appropriate boxes, and provide the necessary documentation as requested. Return the completed form to the Housing Office. **NOTE:** Until you have received written authorization from the Department of Student Housing, you are not released from the Board of Regents Residency Requirement. You may be charged for residence hall housing if you are enrolled and living off-campus without written approval from the Department of Student Housing.

Name: _____ Date _____

Class Standing: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
0-29 credits earned 30-59 credits earned 60-89 credits earned 90-above credits earned

I am requesting an exemption effective: Fall Semester of _____ Spring Semester of _____
Year Year

I am: (check all that apply)

- Currently attending UWP Not currently enrolled at UWP, but will enroll for next semester
- Currently living in UWP residence halls Not currently enrolled at UWP, but will enroll for next year
- Currently living off-campus

Student ID/SS #: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: M F

Current Address (use hall address if currently residing in UWP residence halls):

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Handwritten: MY son does NOT qualify for ANY of these exemptions that are allowed by UWP to be released from the costs and UWP requirements to attend UWP.

Current Phone No: _____

- 1. I am married (you must provide a copy of your marriage certificate with this form).
- 2. I have my child/children living with me (you must send a copy of the birth certificate(s) with this form).
- 3. I am a veteran (you must send a copy of your discharge papers with this form).
- 4. I am 21 years of age or older.
- 5. Two or more years have elapsed since my high school graduation. Date of graduation: _____
- 6. I have a minimum of 60 credits earned and recognized by UWP.
- 7. I have lived in college/university residence halls for four or more semesters. Indicate the halls, the semesters, and the college or university: _____
- 8. I live with a parent or other legal relative (closer than cousin) who is 21 years of age or older. I commute to campus from within a 50 mile radius of the UW-Platteville campus (you must complete the commuting form on the back of this form). **NOTE: Freshmen and sophomores currently living in the residence halls will not be released to commute from the home of a parent/legal relative during the current school year. Juniors or above will be released at the end of the current semester with a forfeiture of the rental prepayment.**
- 9. I feel I have EXTREME circumstances that warrant a special exemption (please attach specific information and supporting documentation). Requests based on dissatisfaction with residence hall living, or on financial matters, will not be approved.

(Over)

Joel Niffenegger

Please read this statement carefully before you sign:

I am requesting an exemption to the Board of Regents policy requiring me to live on-campus during my freshman and/or sophomore years. If this is granted, I agree to be in compliance with the Board of Regents policy for the reason(s) stated on the reverse side of this form. I have included all necessary documentation to support my application for an exemption.

I am aware that knowingly making a false statement, either orally or in writing, to any university employee on a university-related matter is a violation of the UW-System Administrative code and may result in disciplinary action. I further certify that I will remain in compliance throughout my freshman and or /sophomore year(s). I understand that if my release is granted to commute from the home of my parent(s) or other legal relative, and I move from that address without written permission from the UW-Platteville Office of Student Housing, this release will be null and void. I would then be in violation of the UW-System Board of Regents residency requirement and the University will take action.

← My son found out he did ~~NOT~~ qualify to be exempted from these UWP requirement!

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed form to:

Office of Student Housing
Royce Hall
Platteville, WI 53818
(608) 342-1845 Fax: (608) 342-1847

New and transfer students, who have applied for campus housing, will forfeit the rental prepayment if release request is not submitted by May 1 for the fall semester, or by December 1 if beginning enrollment in the spring semester.

NOTARIZATION OF PARENT/LEGAL RELATIVE'S SIGNATURE FOR STUDENTS COMMUTING FROM PARENT/LEGAL RELATIVE'S HOME

If you are commuting from a parent(s)/legal relative's home, your parent/legal relative must sign this statement in the presence of a Notary Public, confirming that you are living at and commuting from your parent/legal relative's home on a daily basis.

Parent or legal relative's name: (print) _____

Parent or legal relative's relationship to you: _____

Parent or legal relative's address and phone number: _____

Parent or legal relative's signature: _____

FOR THE NOTARY PUBLIC:

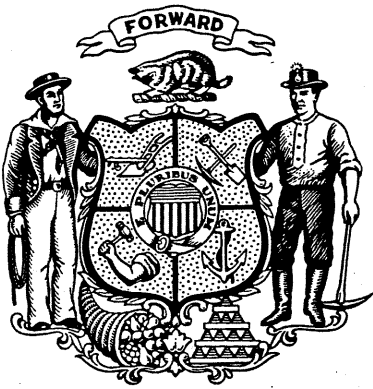
Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____ Year

My commission expires _____
Month/Day/Year

Notary Signature: _____

(SEAL)

END



END

7 June 99

TO: Judy Robson, State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wi 53707-7882

Please support the Death with Dignity bill introduced by Senator Fred Risser. A similar bill was approved by 60% of the voters of Oregon and it is working perfectly. People in Oregon have a choice in how they handle a terminal illness. All the horrible things predicted by our opposition have not come to pass.

If you will bear with me, I will put my desires in clear and simple personal terms.

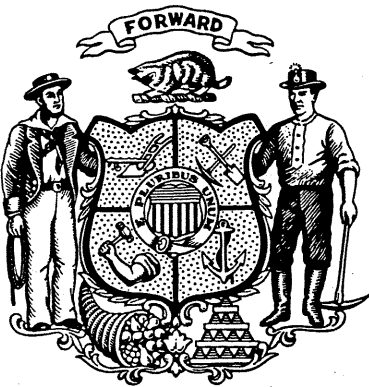
1. Suppose I am diagnosed as having Cancer. Then if the odds for a "cure" are more than 60% I will go thru the rather horrible treatments such as Chemotherapy.
2. Whether treated or not, sooner or later, the Doctor will say: "You have less than 6 months to live," Then I get a second opinion.
3. If the second Doctor agrees with the diagnosis, then I make a written and signed request to my doctor asking him for a prescription that will provide me with some lethal pills. My Doctor has the right to refuse this request and I have the right to look for another Doctor.
3. I will live as long as possible . When I start losing control of my bodily functions, I will take the pills. If you have watched somebody die from Cancer you know that in their last several weeks they wear a diaper and have a catheter going into their bladder.

I don't think I am asking all that much. I am not harming anyone else. Others can continue to die in their own way. I am certainly not planning to kill anybody's grandmother. But, my proposal generates immense opposition. In the State of Oregon, they spent 4 million dollars to defeat us, but we won anyway. In Michigan they spent 5.5 million and we lost.



Arvid Iverson
N8823 Nelson Road
East Troy, Wi 53120

END



END

Terry Mussar
6-7461

SEP 14 1999

608 355 4248(w)

Stuart McNames

Child Protect Service Invest
Savv Cnty

ISSUE - false reporting of abuse or neglect

Other states have crim penalties for this

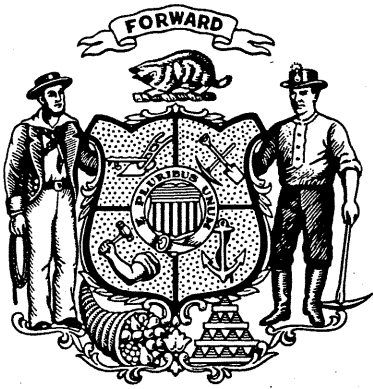
- does WI have this? if not, why not?

946.65 =
false info for
payment

946.32 (1)(a) =
oath or affirmation false
statement

in/ulga case Reo Mussar name & #

END



END



Judith B. Robson
Wisconsin State Senator

September 27, 1999

Marisa Wendland
Brian Paulson
Stacey Quade
c/o 1737 Selby Ave
St. Paul Park, MN 55071

Dear Marisa, Brian and Stacey:

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 23, 1999, inquiring about the Senate Committee on Human Services and Aging.

The next meeting of the Committee is schedule for Thursday, October 7, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in room 201 SE of the State Capitol building in Madison. An agenda for that hearing is attached.

If you are not able to attend that hearing, you can check the Wisconsin Legislature's web-site for the schedule of future hearings. We generally try to have the committee meet once per month. The web address is <http://www.legis.state.wi.us>. Follow the link for the Senate calendars to find out what hearings are scheduled each week.

All of the hearings of the Committee on Human Services and Aging are open to the public and you are welcome to attend and observe. In addition, if you have specific questions about the work of the Committee, I will be glad to talk with you.

If I can provide any other information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Austin".

David A. Austin
Committee Clerk, Committee on Human
Services and Aging

SEP 27 1999

September 23, 1999

The Honorable Judith Biros Robson
Room 118 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Special Committee on Human Services and Aging

Dear Senator Judith Robson:

We are a group of Social Work students currently attending the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. Our professor of Social Welfare Policy, at the University, is Ruth Kalms. As students of her class, we would like to come to Madison to observe a committee meeting.

We are interested in observing a session in your Human Services and Aging Committee. The purpose for our attending a session is to determine the focus of the Committee and it's proposed recommendations. We would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience. You may respond to us at the below listed address.

We, respectfully, thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

Marisa Wendland
Stacey Quade
Brian Paulson

Marisa Wendland, Brian Paulson,
and Stacey Quade

:MKW

CC: Professor Ruth A. Kalms, M.S.S.W.
Social Work Program
U of W at River Falls
PH: (715) 425-3376

Respond to: Marisa Wendland
1737 Selby Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN 55071

OSHA } HS + A
a Kevin Lewis }
1 b Claude Gilmore } DHFS
c David Duran } Handout In favor 1/24/18

2 Char Thompson Foundation for Rural Housing Inc Handout In favor

3 Richard Schlimm ADVOCAP & WISCAP In favor

4 Jackie Lawrence WISCAP In favor, not speaking