

Dear Senator Burke,

I am a mother of three children. I have a son who is in the third grade, a daughter in the first grade, and a one year old. The choice program has been a blessing to my family. I have been able to choose a school that is church oriented. Early View Academy of Excellence is truly a school of excellence. The staff is willing and determined to help children that are not able to work up to their ability. The choice program has allowed families to come in and be helped to improve their standards of learning. Early View has challenged my children minds to another level. They have developed new ways of learning. They have tremendously improved their work efforts. It has also helped me to become more involved with my children. I was first a volunteer, and now I am a full time employee. I don't have to worry about how the teachers are treating my children, or how will my children treat the teachers. I respect the leadership that I have valued over the years being at Mt. Zion where I attend church. I want my children to be installed my the values that I grew up with. I want them to treasure what they have learned and look back and say, "This is where I came from, and look what I have achieved."

Sincerely,


Joy Beamon

4300 N. Green Bay
Milw WI 53209

Testimony

I am a parent and teacher, and I believe choice is the only tool we have left to fight the ever growing illiteracy epidemic. Without choice parents will not be able to effectively plan their children's educational future. I had an experience with my oldest son who attended a school in the Franklin district, my wife and I thought this school would be the best place for our son, but in fact it turn out to be the worst school for him, he was failing in every subject, we didn't why all the teacher liked him, he liked all the teachers. He was in an environment in which he could not focus, because of choice we were able to choose a school where he could focus and not fail, without the right choose he would most defiantly would have been lost. **"If we can't choose, we loose"**.

Christopher F. Mattin

Christopher Mattin

5709 N 73rd Street

Milwaukee, WI. 53218

414-438-2424

Early View Academy of Excellence
4300 N Green Bay Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209 n the teaching process and

I have been a teacher in the MPS and have experienced both public and private (choice) schools.

The cooperation and involvement of the parents/grandparents and other relatives in the teaching process *and*
And their support in all school functions is phenomenal.

Our school is open for visitations at alltimes, so the parents are aware of the goals, purpose and functioning
Of Early View.

We have a great, supportive staff and the retraining of these transfer students from public education, larger classes, fights and disrespect for authority is a large part of our teaching tasks.

At this point in my career, I choose to be here as I compare both types of education for our African American students.



Victoria Jordan
7th Grade Teacher

4300 N. Green Bay
Milw WI 53209

4/12/01

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Choice program. I think it would be very detrimental to our children if Choice was hindered in anyway. Choice is a chance for many parents to make a difference in their child's life. For many, its ~~a~~ ^{the} last result. For their child and their education. The Choice program should be allowed to make a difference. Parents should have the "freedom" of choice.

Thank you.
Mrs. Laquon Weddle
MRS. Laquon Weddle

4300 N. Green Bay
Milw WI 53259

April 12, 01

Dear Chairperson of the State Finance Committee:

I deeply regret that I am unable to be present in the hearing where the subject of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program will be discussed. I trust that you will take the time to hear the voices of those who cry for a "fair chance for our children."

I have been involved with this program for only years now and I am deeply committed to it and the principles of CHOICE for low-income families in Milwaukee. I am personally disappointed when I hear voices, mostly from those who do not strive to educate our children, against this movement. I am in contact with people weekly; parents, administrators, children, community workers, volunteers, all who are seeing the "difference" that is being made when parents have options for their children.

Choice is not an anti-public school movement, it is a pro-student, pro-education movement. This program offers an opportunity for people who earn "little" to send their children to another kind educational institution. This has tremendous advantage for our community. Parents again are involved in their children's education, parent are more involved with the school they have chosen, parents are one measure of accountability for this program.

There is no such thing as public verses private. We all serve the public interest, we all should exist for the public good -the education of our children. If the public schools serve the public well parents would more and more choose to remain with it, if it does not then parents who are poor should also have an option for their children. If an optional institution does not, parents can choose another place.

If this hearing is about our children, then the answer is clear. Ask the parents ! Seek to understand the true nature of why public schools are now failing our children and parents are choosing another solution. Then, we can make a decision.

CHOICE is just one alternative that works for many parents. I strongly urge and recommend a continuation of the program and expansion of the program.

Sincerely,


Dr. Annie Oliver
Educator

April 12, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING IN FAVOR OF THE CHOICE PROGRAM. MY DAUGHTER IS A THIRD GRADER AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL. I TREASURE THE EDUCATION THAT SHE IS RECEIVING. SHE IS DOING VERY WELL. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE CHOICE PROGRAM I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW I COULD KEEP HER THERE. I HAVE A COUPLE OF HEALTH CONCERNS AND I'M NOT ABLE TO WORK AT THIS TIME. I AM A FULL TIME STUDENT AT M.A.T.C.

PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THE MILWAUKEE PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM. IT IS A VERY GOOD PROGRAM, AND WE NEED IT TO STAY IN OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

MISS GERALDINE WILDER
CONCERNED PARENT

St. Marcus Lutheran School

2215 North Palmer Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

Phone (area 414) 562-3163

Tonia Wilson

April 13, 2001

Dear Legislators,

BRIANNA

We are the students and teacher from the K-5 class at St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee. Our school participates in Milwaukee's Choice Program. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS PROGRAM! We love our school, and many of us could not be here if it were not for Choice.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne Kelm

Mrs. Lynne Kelm

K-5 Teacher

St. Marcus Lutheran School
and students

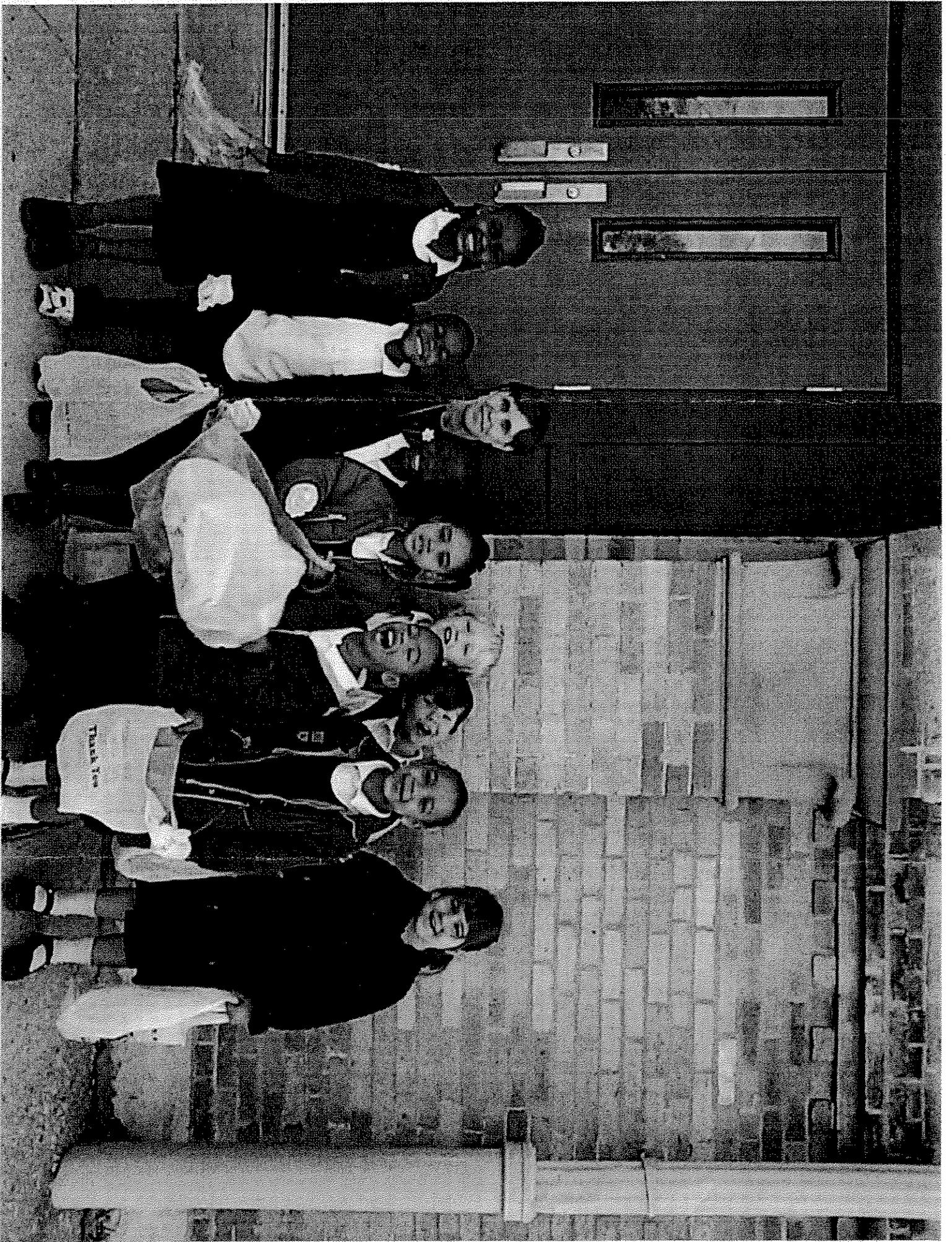
Saadia
OKSANA

DARWALACKER @ W
M A L T H

JOHN TERAH YOSUD

Stephanie

~~Soo~~ to



You have all received copies of The Return to Separate and Unequal: Metropolitan Milwaukee School Funding Through a Racial Lens, published by Rethinking Schools. As you know, it very clearly demonstrates that as the percentage of children of color increased in MPS, both the School District and the State through its funding formulas, systematically decreased the funds available to MPS, relative to the Suburbs. This is a moral outrage and must be rectified this legislative session. We are holding you responsible for bringing Justice to the children of MPS.

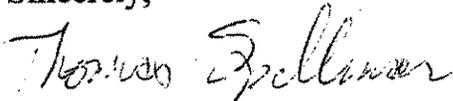
Creating alternative schools and funding them no better than MPS, is not a moral solution to the problem. Because of the divisions it brings to our community it is a insult . It is a desperate day when a small numbers of people are forced to try and rescue some of the children rather than "waging war" to protect all of the children. This legislative session is the time for you to save all the children.

After the Budget hearings please prepare a PLAN that details how the Joint Finance committee will guarantee the rights of ALL the children of the State of Wisconsin. The various organizations I am part of I am sure are ready and willing to meet with you or your staff to prepare such a plan. A PLAN is required. The Neighborhood School Initiative is not the PLAN for two reasons. First it brings NO additional resource to the district. Secondly it actually further segregates the city of Milwaukee, which you know is already one of the most segregated cities in the nation.

If you do ^{not} include relief for MPS in the Budget, in the next 8 years over 22,000 yes that is Thousand, children will not graduate from High School.

The last time I checked quality cost money.

Sincerely,



Thomas Spellman

H 414-933-1341

2119 W Juneau

Milwaukee WI 53233

April 13, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee members

The Supreme Court of the Great State of Wisconsin has ruled:

“We further hold that Wisconsin students have a fundamental right to an equal opportunity for a sound basic education. An equal opportunity for a sound basic education is one that will equip students for their roles as citizens and enable them to succeed economically and personally.”

We also assume that there is universal agreement that a graduation rate of 51% does not meet the standard as set forth by the Supreme Court; therefore, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to bring JUSTICE to the children of MPS. It is the duty and responsibility of STATE Government to provide for the education of the STATE'S children which includes the children of Color of MPS. (The last time we checked Milwaukee is still part of the State of Wisconsin.)

The legislature sets school district boundaries. The legislature also creates the laws and rules governing school boards and how they are run. Most importantly the legislature through revenue limits, limits the amount of money that can be spent on a child's education!

You may want to try and hide from your responsibility by saying these are local issues, but you can not pass the buck so easily. It is the STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY to guarantee the education of the State's children. Just as it is your responsibility to enact and enforce all forms of anti discrimination laws which do not relate to anyone's specific district, it is also your responsibility to guarantee the right of ALL of the children of the State of Wisconsin to “an equal opportunity for a sound basic education”.

It is your responsibility.

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY****KATHLEEN M. HUSTON
CITY LIBRARIAN**

April 17, 2001

To: The Joint Finance Committee
Brian Burke, Senate Co-Chair
John Gard, Assembly Co-Chair

Fr: Kathleen M. Huston, City Librarian

Re: Library Funding

I am writing today to support improved funding for Wisconsin Libraries. Specifically, the Milwaukee Public Library strongly supports compliance with Chapter 43.24 (6) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, which requires funding for public library systems at 13% of local library expenditures. Current funding is less than 10%.

With this increase in funding, Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS), would benefit in several areas. More funding would allow MCFLS to assume a greater role in subsidizing reciprocal borrowing, which permits Milwaukee County citizens to borrow materials from any library within the county. In addition, with more funding, MCFLS could pick up a greater part or all technology costs.

In addition, the Milwaukee Public Library supports full funding for the four state resource contracts: The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan (ILS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC).

- Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) and the Milwaukee Public Library through Interlibrary Services, lend materials to all parts of the state in response to requests that cannot be filled at the system level or by Reference and Loan Library.
- Under S. 43.03 (6), Wisconsin State Statutes, the State Superintendent is required to contract annually with a public library for the provision of library services to physically handicapped persons, including the blind and physically handicapped. Since 1961, this contract has been maintained with the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped located in the Milwaukee Public Library.
- The Cooperative Children's Book Center is a repository of children's tradebooks used by children's librarians and teachers throughout the state and provides unique resources and services to educators and others in freedom of information cases.

Page 2

Continued full funding of these four contracts will continue to provide full access for everyone in the state to the specialized materials and resources available through these library service providers.

Finally, I ask the Committee to support BadgerLink. Full funding of this proposal will provide every library in the state with unlimited access to more than 6,000 magazines, newsletters and newspapers. There are 381 public libraries, 426 school districts with nearly 2,000 libraries, as well as 79 academic libraries and 451 special libraries in Wisconsin. This important and extensively used service will continue to provide a vast amount of information directly to the computer desktop of school library media centers and classrooms; users of public libraries; university, college and technical college students; hospital and other special libraries; and to individual Wisconsin residents.

I appreciate your attention to these issues and for the outstanding efforts you make for the citizens of Wisconsin. Thank you.



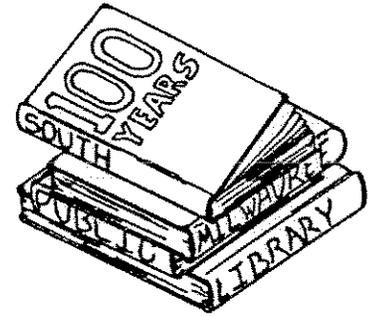
South Milwaukee Public Library

1907 10th Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

phone: (414) 768-8195

fax: (414) 768-8072

Robert M. Pfeiffer, Director



April 17, 2001

TO: Joint Finance Committee
Brian Burke, Senate Co-Chair
John Gard, Assembly Co-Chair

FR: Robert M. Pfeiffer, Library Director

RE: Library Funding

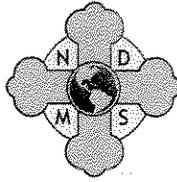
The South Milwaukee Public Library Board is writing to support improved funding for Wisconsin library systems so that we are in compliance with Chapter 43.24(6) of the Wisconsin State Statutes which requires funding for library systems at 13% of local library expenditures. The current funding is 10%.

The Board also requests that BadgerLink be fully funded from the Universal Service Fund and that the Governor's proposal for using fees to fund this service be disregarded.

We also would like to request that the Joint Finance Committee increase the funding as recommended by the Department of Public Instruction for the four contracts: Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Children's Cooperative Book Center, the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service and the back up interlibrary loan service from the Milwaukee Public Library.

The South Milwaukee Public Library Board wishes to thank you for your consideration of these requests. Increased funding will allow libraries to continue to provide the citizens of Wisconsin with quality library service.

PROUD PAST.....PROMISING FUTURE



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

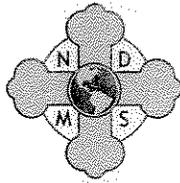
I am very much in support of providing protection for parents with children in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. I would like you to pass the proposal for removing penalties related to increased income and to raise the lower limit for admission into the choice program from 175% of poverty to 185%.

Neither proposal will cost more in the long run because there is a cap on the number of participants who may take advantage of the MPCP. Both proposals make sense because they encourage parents to improve both their financial situation and the education of their children. Both proposals encourage parents to move up the economic ladder by ensuring that they will be able to choose the best school for their children and the job that pays the best.

Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

Javier Mercado
5251 S. 13th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

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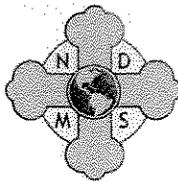
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Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana Ramirez".

Ana Ramirez
2136 S. 28th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

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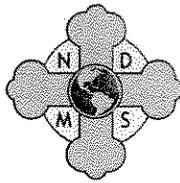
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Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Griffin Carmen
1321 W. Washington
Milwaukee, WI 53204



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

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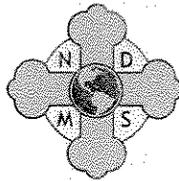
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Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

Celia & Baltasar Cordova
1523 S. 15th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

X *Celia Cordova*



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

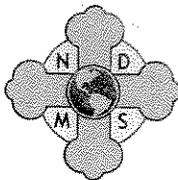
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Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

Rosa Barba
2131 S. 24th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215



NOTRE DAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.

1420 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-2269 • Phone: 414.671.3000 • Fax: 414.671.3170

April 17, 2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

As Director of Graduate Support at Notre Dame Middle School, I work with graduates of NDMS to find financial aid so that students can go to the school of their choice. I see the positive effect that the Parental Choice Program has on these students' lives. Yet, parents and families suffer financially to remain in these programs. They cannot improve their financial situation because of the fear of losing their Choice financial aid.

I am very much in support of providing protection for parents with children in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. I would like you to pass the proposal for removing penalties related to increased income and to raise the lower limit for admission into the choice program from 175% of poverty to 185%.

Neither proposal will cost more in the long run because there is a cap on the number of participants who may take advantage of the MPCP. Both proposals make sense because they encourage parents to improve both their financial situation and the education of their children. Both proposals encourage parents to move up the economic ladder by ensuring that they will be able to choose the best school for their children and the job that pays the best.

Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

Jane Koepke
1041 E. Knapp Street #720
Milwaukee, WI 53202

COURTNEY L. NELSON

42 Wanda St.
Milwaukee, WI 53219
Phone (414) 221-7286
cunbnelns@cardinalstritch.edu

April 18, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this body on behalf of Cardinal Stritch University. My name is Courtney Nelson and I am a sophomore at the university. I am attending Stritch, in part, because of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. At Cardinal Stritch University I am pursuing a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. With the knowledge that I gain in the Education Program I plan to help educate children with Special Needs in the Milwaukee Area. At Stritch, I hold the office of Vice President for the Student Government Association. This position is also preparing me for my future career. I am learning leadership, task management, and delegation abilities. These vital components involved in my preparation for my future career where subsidized through the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. I would encourage you to continue funding for this grant to help make this possible for other Wisconsin students.

Sincerely,



Courtney L. Nelson

THE MILWAUKEE SCIENCE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM, INC.

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Alverno College
414-382-6349

William Randall
Chairman - Emeritus
U.S. Bank
414-227-6067

April 18, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee members:

I am writing today to request your support for our efforts to access transportation support for families attending independent charter schools in Milwaukee.

Our school, The Milwaukee Academy of Science, will serve 1200 children when it reaches capacity. Were we a private school, parents living outside of the neighborhood would be able to access transportation assistance, either in the form of a bus or a transportation voucher.

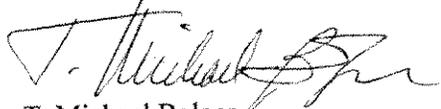
But because students attending The Academy of Science attend a public charter school authorized by a sponsor other than MPS, they are not eligible for this assistance. Current statutory language requires school boards to "provide transportation to and from the school a pupil attends for each pupil residing in the school district who attends any elementary grade, including kindergarten, or high school grade at a private school located 2 miles or more from the pupil's residence, . . ." (121.54 (2) (b) 1, Wisconsin Statutes.).

Independent public charter schools are neither private schools nor school boards. The language written to support transportation for private schools was drafted and passed in the early 1970s, long before charter school legislation passed in Wisconsin. It is likely a drafting error that independent charter school students are not included in 121.54 (2) (b) 1.

This public policy from the early 70s supported the idea that public dollars serve families and children, not school districts. Today, public policy in Wisconsin continues to move toward having dollars follow children. We are asking that when children and their families choose our school or one of the other independent charter schools, that transportation dollars available to their private school peers be made available to them as well.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



T. Michael Bolger
President

cc: Board of Directors

JTFINLTR

2000 W. KILBOURN AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

April 19, 2001

Superintendent John Benson
Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53702

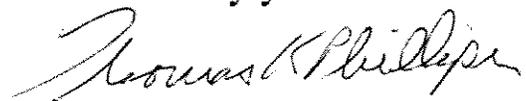
Dear Superintendent Benson:

The time has come for the State of Wisconsin to come to the aid of the children who live in Milwaukee. One hundred thousand children are jammed under the heel of one district, the Milwaukee Public Schools. **"Clearly, this is a school district in crisis,"** according to DPI spokesman, Greg Doyle, quoted in the March 20th Milwaukee Journal Sentinel .

Sari Blaszyk is a high school freshman in MPS. She has been sitting at home with no education since last October. The sheer size of MPS prevents Sari from being educated. MPS administrators and policy makers do not have time for Sari. They are too busy running off to Washington requesting exemptions from their responsibilities to children like Sari and from DPI's authority to enforce education law.

We complain on behalf of Sari and her parents. ***Sari has been out of school for more than 100 days of the 2000-01 school year.*** The district has not tried to get Sari back in school and has not followed the procedures for a child like Sari to get her back to school.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas K. Phillipson

CC: Joint Finance Committee
MPS Board Members

C:\01\1BS_A20a

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

March 23, 2001

Superintendent John Benson
Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Superintendent Benson:

This is a complaint against the Milwaukee Public Schools. I file on behalf of Israel Olivera and his Mother Laura Rodriguez.

Israel is a Special Services student at Bay View High School. He has not attended school for more than 30 days during the second semester of the 2000-01 school year. The district has not called the required meeting to address his lack of attendance and placement.

MPS's lack of required action to address Israel's attendance and educational needs helps explain why, "*Clearly, this is a school district in crisis*" as DPI spokesman Greg Doyle is quoted as saying in the March 20, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Rather than address violations of Education Law happening in MPS, administrators fly to Washington, D.C. and request exemption from the very laws that enable us to seek your help to obtain an education for Israel.

Please send me copies of all correspondence from MPS related to this complaint.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas K. Phillipson

CC: Ms Olivera
Board Member Joe Dannecker
Supt Spence Korte

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

April 20, 2001

Incentives to Improve Attendance in MPS

MPS students covered by a CHIPS Order, a JIPS Order or on probation are typically ordered to attend school. The monitoring for the court is the responsibility of either a Probation Officer or a Wrap Around Worker. MPS does not share the student's attendance information with the court worker in a timely or convenient way. Each worker, acting for the court needs access to the computer to review their student's attendance record.

MPS shall receive no state aids for any student who is under court ordered supervision for whom computer access to the worker is not automatically and conveniently made available within ten working days after the order is signed by the court.

MPS shall receive no state aids for any student who is under court ordered supervision who is truant from school five days in a month.

MPS shall receive a one time computer programming fee of \$2,000 to establish necessary password routines.

MPS shall receive additional state aids of \$100 per student who is under court order to set up the individual student records in the computer data base.

MPS shall provide the computer terminal, computer printer, necessary computer line connections and support without charge to each agency certified by a Circuit Judge as needing this support to fulfill court sanctioned school attendance.

Disputes about fees and charges shall be settled by DPI who has authority to promulgate rules to carry out this policy.

Fiscal Impact: Under current attendance patterns at MPS, the state will save thousands of dollars each semester after the above costs are paid.

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4575

April 20, 2001

Encourage Foster Parent Participation in IEP meetings

Chapter 119 School Districts shall appoint foster parents to their children's IEP teams in addition to natural parents and adults with legal guardianship.

To cover the cost of research and postage MPS shall receive \$10.00 annually for each child who has foster parents.

Foster Parents will have access to their child's school records unless a Circuit Court Judge rules against the Foster Parent.

The natural parent or person with legal guardianship may in writing filed with MPS, deny access to their child's records.

If MPS does not invite the Foster Parents to be members of an IEP team MPS shall forfeit all state aids for that child for that school year.

Fiscal Impact: Under present policy which is to not notify foster parents of their child's IEP meetings, MPS would lose state aids for over 3,000 children annually.

C:\01\1WJFC02a

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

April 20, 2001

Add Lead Poisoning as a factor for Exceptional Education Aids

The Governor's proposed Budget allocates increases in Exceptional Education Funding based on the district census (total head count) with a bonus for poverty.

One of the greatest factors in the costs of Exceptional Education is Lead Poisoning. The number of lead poisoned children in MPS exceeds the total enrollment of hundreds of school districts in Wisconsin.

The bonus factor for Lead Poisoning shall be three times the bonus factor for poverty.

DPI shall certify annually which districts will qualify for this bonus.

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

April 20, 2001

End State Aids for Chapter 119 District Violations of IDEA

Over half of the complaints to DPI about violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are filed against Milwaukee Public Schools. DPI investigates complaints and frequently finds that MPS has violated the law. MPS is required to file a Corrective Action Plan. But each year we file new complaints for other children about the same violations. There is no penalty to MPS for violating a child's rights.

When DPI requires that MPS prepare a Corrective Action Plan the state shall withhold all state aids for that child for that school year.

When DPI determines that the violation has affected more than one child the DPI shall determine for how many children all state aids shall be withheld for that school year.

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 342 - 4375

April 20, 2001

Regular State Aid Payments to MPS

There is significant movement of children during the school year into and out of MPS and private Charter and Voucher schools. The school that gets the money often is not the school that must provide the services. The money should follow the children.

Payments from the state to MPS and to Charter and voucher schools should be made in nine equal payments on a monthly basis during the school year based on invoices submitted by the schools signed by the principal.

No school should be allowed to claim payment for a child who has been truant for five days or more during the month of invoice.

The list of children for whom payment is claimed shall be submitted with the monthly invoice and attested to by the principal.

WE CAN PARENTS' NETWORK

805 North Twenty Eighth Street

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

414 - 542 - 4375

April 20, 2001

State Payments to MPS for Exceptional Education Expense s

In MPS children with disabilities are educated in the local schools but the money from the state goes into the central MPS accounts. The way the central office bureaucrats distribute money to the local schools is based on historic enrollments and often does not reflect the current local school enrollment.

All payments to MPS of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) from the State and pass through money from the federal government should go to the local schools in nine equal payments during the school year based on monthly invoices signed by the local principal.

No school shall be allowed to claim payment for a child who has been truant for five days or more during the month of invoice.

The list of children for whom payment is claimed shall be submitted with the monthly invoice and attested to by the principal.

April 19, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee,

My name is Eileen Helsper. I am currently a junior at Cardinal Stritch University, finishing my Bachelor's degree in nursing. I have already obtained an Associate degree in nursing and a minor in Spanish, and I am involved in Campus Ministry, Peer Educators, and our Student Orientation team. I have been on the Dean's List and Nursing Honor Roll every semester I've been at Cardinal Stritch, and have been inducted into Delta Epsilon Sigma for academic excellence. But most importantly, I am a Wisconsin Tuition Grant Recipient; without financial assistance, I would not have been able to tell you of these achievements because I would not have been able to attend college.

I am the eldest of the six children in my family, and the first one to go to college. But before coming to Cardinal Stritch University, I knew that I had to find a way to afford the high costs of higher learning because my parents do not have much money and wouldn't be able to support me financially. I strived for excellence in high school and became valedictorian of my class, hoping that my grades would help me find scholarships or grants. My parents helped me fill out forms to possibly obtain financial aid from the state of Wisconsin. Thankfully, I was blessed to receive both sets of assistance, and this financial help was and is why I have been able to become a Registered Nurse.

My case may be quite different than that of other students, but I feel as if I represent a majority of the population. Many of us are not able to afford college tuition out of pocket, and without outstanding report cards or athletic achievements, the chance of us receiving financial assistance becomes significantly smaller. If we do not continue to have programs such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, many of us may never even attempt to get a college degree. I feel that this is important because as they mature, our nation's youth will eventually support our older generation; without the knowledge and

abilities that come from a good education, what will happen to us in the future? I hope to never find out.

Please continue to see that by selflessly sharing money, you can make amazing and life-long changes in many students' lives. You are the ones who create a better world for our future and our children's future. And perhaps one day those you have graciously helped will be able to offer you the same kindness with their new talents they have gained through their college degrees. I look forward to being one of those people.

Sincerely,

Eileen Helsper

Eileen Helsper

4151 S. 1st St.

Milwaukee, WI 53207

Ms. Tramaine Hopgood
5063 N 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53209

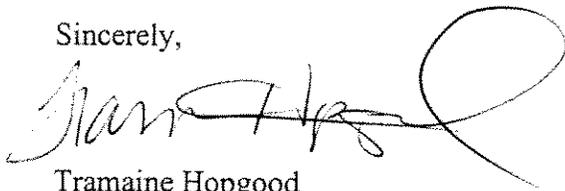
April 19, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tramaine Hopgood, and I am currently enrolled at Cardinal Stritch University as a full-time freshman. After working a full-time job for almost a year after I graduated high school, I decided I wanted to go to college for a BA in English/Writing. I was not eligible for some of the financial aid opportunities that were offered to students entering college directly from high school. Within five months after applying for college, my parent's financial status changed drastically, which made me question whether or not I would be able to attend college. No one in my family has attended college so I didn't know where to go for financial aid, or that there were grants and scholarships available. After speaking with a financial aid counselor about my financial situation preventing me from attending college, he offered me the WTG. I received the WTG along with a Cardinal Stritch grant, and other loans. That assistance made it possible for me to attend college.

A college degree is essential in the line of work I would like to pursue. My ultimate career goal is to become a writer and maybe a book publisher. I was very grateful to receive this opportunity, and I hope it will be available for students in need of financial assistance in the future. Thank you for allowing me to express my personal testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tramaine Hopgood", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tramaine Hopgood

WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

5420 North Marlborough Drive Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin 53217
(414) 964-4380
FAX (414) 964-5733

TRACY BLASCHKA, DIRECTOR

April 19, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express my distress at the proposed budget cuts for the Wisconsin State Law Library. Such cuts would severely impair the service WSLL provides the citizens of Wisconsin. I have been in the library field for seven years and have witnessed first hand how WSLL fills an incredible need in Wisconsin. Not only is WSLL a resource for the courts, it is a law library for the citizens. WSLL provides Wisconsin citizens with access to vital legal information, without which many citizens would remain ignorant to their rights and responsibilities.

As the director of the Whitefish Bay Public Library, and on behalf of my patrons, I ask you to fully fund the Wisconsin State Law Library.

Sincerely,



Tracy Blaschka

April 19, 2001

TO: THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Brian Burke, Senate Co-Chair
John Gard, Assembly Co-Chair

My name is Donald Bulley. I am semi-retired utility employee and a Trustee for the South Milwaukee Public Library.

During my lifetime, my educational needs have grown from twenty years of structured schooling to life long educational needs on a wide variety of subjects. Libraries have been the most important educational resource in my adult life. They are the only educational institution with the flexibility and range of information for adult educational needs. More than that, they are the most efficient educational institutions in Wisconsin. And even better than that, they cost the state nothing! They are locally funded!

The State of Wisconsin created, "Library Systems" a few years ago to permit and encourage system wide circulation and resource sharing between libraries and to make library service possible for towns and villages with no libraries. They are an example of one of those rare successes that actually achieve their goal (noisy, but successful).

The state also instituted "Badger Link" which vastly expands the reference capability of all libraries in Wisconsin, especially small libraries. Few libraries could afford this service on their own. Badger Link is an important information age tool that greatly empowers our residents and make them more competitive in the world marketplace.

The Milwaukee County Federated Library System, (MCFLS) is very popular with our residents. It is hell on wheels to manage, but it, and others around the state, have been the kind of success that legislatures usually only dream about. When the management problems are finally resolved they will be models for statewide library systems.

As state budget items go, the needs of library systems are quite modest. They have achieved their success without ever having the funding originally proposed, 13% of the public expenditure for libraries. Today, however, the funding level has dropped to less than 10%. We are in danger of losing several library systems in Wisconsin if that funding is not corrected.

You have two rare and priceless winners. I urge you to save the library systems in Wisconsin and to fund Badger Link. They are a bargain at twice the price.


Donald Bulley

Testimony of County Supervisor Roger Quindel
April 20, 2001

We are not asking for more money. We are asking you to spend the same amount of money more effectively.

We are going to describe what will seem like a miracle cure-all for many of the problems facing kids today. For a few hundred dollars a year we can guarantee that school attendance and grades will improve, physical fitness will be better, juvenile crime will be reduced, kids will be happier, they will eat more healthful food, far fewer girls will get pregnant, and almost NONE of the kids involved in this program will smoke cigarettes – the extremely harmful gateway drug to alcohol and other addictive drugs.

It's not a "miracle" but an effort to involve young Milwaukee County kids in organized sports activity. It's something taken for granted in the suburbs and many small towns. But in Milwaukee most kids don't have the opportunity to be part of teams for football, soccer, wrestling, swimming or a girl's softball, track or basketball team. But it's starting to happen all over the Milwaukee area with wonderful results. And Milwaukee County has helped to expand the effort by putting \$200, 000 a year in local property tax dollars into the Milwaukee County Sports Authority. The Sports Authority, which is administered by the Milwaukee Foundation, awards small grants to primarily volunteer efforts to develop sports programs for under served girls and boys. The only problem is that with no advertising or outreach Milwaukee County is receiving requests for twice the *annual* amount at *each* of our quarterly grant sessions.

We are asking you to earmark one million dollars from the anti-smoking money to the Milwaukee County Sports Authority. We need to offer kids more than anti-smoking ads. We know that organized, team sports keeps kids from smoking. It also has a whole lot of other extremely positive, practically guaranteed results. A million dollars is a lot of money. It will fund several hundred more volunteer driven programs involving many thousands of kids in positive activity. It is also the same amount of money that Milwaukee County will spend on sixteen kids at a Juvenile Correction Facility and we have 400 kids in such facilities.

I will end with this. Last night I was at the North Central YMCA to talk to Montrell O'Bryon Mungon, who is the first city wrestler in 13 years to win a state title, was coaching some of the younger kids. He talked to me about where he was going to college. Then he asked me if he could use me as a reference when he applied for his first wrestling coach job in a few years. I met O'Bryon, when he started wrestling in 6th grade at Sholes Middle School. A teacher there used his lunchtime to create the first youth wrestling club in Milwaukee. The money you make available will help create such programs for every kid with an interest, in every sport, in every part of the city. It will help develop the coaches, referees and umpires of the future. And it will keep kids from smoking. Thank you for your time and attention..

4-20-01

Good Day Ladies & Gentlemen

My name is Diana Wells (spell) and this is my son Mathew (spell)

I am here one, as a parent of a child with a disability and two, as a representative for the Lakeland School Parents Organization for Children with Disabilities.

Mathew has attended Lakeland School Walworth County's Early Education Program for the last 2 years, and will continue to attend for at least one or two more years depending on his learning curve. It is my firm belief and through proven studies, that the earlier intervention is instituted for children with disabilities, the greater benefit (the children who will be adults) will provide to their communities or the communities that they reside in future. I have seen with my own eyes, also the people involved with Mathew's intervention, the progress he has made because of the early intervention. Because of the availability of early intervention through Birth to Three and now Lakeland School, Mathew has gone farther than most would have ever imagined, and he has the potential to exceed beyond what most could even hope. It is truly my hope that he will be an asset rather than a burden. I felt that this hearing was important enough to take him out of school today, so that you the State Budget Committee have a visual aid as to who I and the parents of Children with Special Needs are fighting for. Without intervention Mathew and many children with disabilities will become a burden to society rather than an asset to their living community.

Lakeland School is run by the Walworth County Board, we are not considered a school district, we are funded directly from the County tax rolls and are very close to our cap. We are in a unique situation like the School for the Blind and School for the Deaf. We don't fall under the category of a "**SCHOOL DISTRICT.**" It is my understanding from the Education Public Hearing that was held in Janesville recently that the wording has been changed to include schools such as Lakeland School Walworth County, the School for the Blind, and the School for the Deaf so that we will be included to receive the same benefits as a "**SCHOOL DISTRICT,**" which was not true in the past. For this I applaud you and your constituents.

But you need to know that the Walworth County Board has taken it under serious consideration to find other alternatives to fund Lakeland School, as we are not a mandated program.

It has been brought to my attention and the attention of most parents of children with special needs in Walworth County that the State of Wisconsin is currently paying approximately 35% of the funding for Special Education Programs in Walworth County. The County was originally promised between 60% and 70% funding of the County's Special Education Programs from the State of Wisconsin. This lack of funding is affecting 1700 Special Needs Students throughout Walworth County, those that attend Lakeland School and those who are mainstreamed in the public school system. It directly effects 234 Students that attend Lakeland School Walworth County of the total 1700 students. When the State of Wisconsin does not cover the funding promised, the residents of Walworth County have been dealt the responsibility of covering the lapse in funding through their tax base, thus having to cut back on some other service or need within the County including the upgrading of our school facility.

I invite you the State Budget Committee Members to come and visit Lakeland School of Walworth County. As you enter our facility you will note an older building in need of much repair and upgrading, a limited amount of classroom space and older equipment. What sets Lakeland apart is **DEDICATED TEACHERS AND A COMMITTED SUPPORT STAFF**. We would be happy to show you how we are achieving the goal for more productive individuals for Walworth County and other communities. This visit would greatly enhance your lives and we extend to you and your constituents a better understanding of just how important this funding is to Lakeland School and Walworth County. You are welcome to join us at anytime.

At this time I would also like to put in a plug for a benefit to support Lakeland School Student with Special Needs. This fund raiser helps supplement the school for equipment and school activities which do not fall under budget constraints. School Fest will be on May 5, 2001 from 9-3 on the school grounds, in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. We have entertainment, games for the children, food, refreshments, ice cream, craft booths, plant sale (for the gardener), bake sale, cash raffles, Walworth County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit, Bike Rodeo & ID program, Smoke House and a real AUCTION, starting at 1:00. I have enclosed a flyer for those that are interested. We would like to see you attend.

As a taxpayer and a regular voter in the State of Wisconsin, I would appreciate this matter of funding considered as a priority not only for myself, and my son, but for all the Special Needs People of Walworth County and the State of Wisconsin. Your continued support in this most needed area is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration in the most important matter. I hope to hear from you soon as

to requesting a visit or just dropping by. Should you have any question now or in the future please feel free to contact me. Thank you again.

Diana Wells
040 Gregory Drive
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-2092



April 20, 2001

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Cindy Zautcke, Wisconsin Charter Schools Association board member
(414) 291-5241; (414) 291-5258 (fax); cazmjo@execpc.com
RE: Governor's 2001-2003 Budget

In 1997, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed Governor Thompson's budget recommendation expanding chartering authority to UW-Milwaukee, the city of Milwaukee, and MATC. I participated in efforts to pass that legislation and have been "on the ground" with the public policy since then.

In short, the legislation you passed in 1997 is working. Independent charter schools are producing the intended results.

- **System-level innovation.** Public policy makers support charter school legislation because it brings innovation to the system at two levels. The first level, and I argue the most important, is the "system" level. Independent charter school legislation opens up the public school system to a diverse set of providers. For example, of the 12 charter schools in Milwaukee, nine are designed and operated by community and parent groups. Of the 80 charter schools in the rest of the state, to my knowledge, only five were designed and operated by community and parent groups.
- **School-level innovation.** The 1997 charter school legislation has spawned schools that would not exist without the public policy.
 1. Well-respected non-profits like the Milwaukee Urban League and the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Center for Independence have brought their expertise and resources to Milwaukee's students not as add-ons to existing private and public schools, but to create new schools, often in underserved, overcrowded parts of the city.
 2. New schools, such as the Central City Cyberschool, have brought together the private, non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors to build a new, technology-rich school in the Park Lawn Housing Project.
 3. The higher education community pulled together to design and operate a school, the Milwaukee Academy of Science, to address the dismal performance of our students in science. Further, a group made up of faculty from UW-Madison and University of Illinois-Chicago opened a charter middle school, Wisconsin Career Academy, also with a strong science and math focus.
- **Accountability.** Charter authorizers in Milwaukee are taking seriously their responsibility to hold their charters accountable. Since chartering schools, the city of Milwaukee has hired accounting and educational audit firms to monitor the progress of each of their four charter schools. UW-Milwaukee and the school board have set up strong systems as well. Over time, the reports from these

authorizers will better tell us how students are doing in each of the charter schools.

- **Response by MPS.** In 1996, my colleagues and I proposed a charter school, El Puento High School, to MPS. We were one of over 15 proposals. Only Highland Community School was approved. Our group was denied charter status not because people believed we couldn't operate a good school: our group was awarded a partnership contract with MPS the next year and operates as a school on 5th and National Avenue today. Our group and the over one dozen other applicants were denied because MPS didn't have to respond to us. More importantly, they didn't have to respond to the failure of their students.

Evidence suggests that now MPS is responding. There are more non-instrumentality charter schools. MPS has created policies that allow their very talented teaching and administrative staff to seek greater autonomy in exchange for demonstrating results. Important school level decisions, such as how to spend money and who to hire, are now being made at the school.

Therefore, I ask that you continue improving the legislation you passed in 1997. Please support the following provisions in the budget:

- Recommendation to allow **any city of Milwaukee child to attend** an independent charter school.
- Recommendation to allow independent charter schools to receive **summer school aid.**

I would also request that students who attend independent charter schools be able to access the same **transportation aid** that their private school peers access.

And finally, given the success of the public policy, **I hope that this committee will lead efforts to stop any legislation introduced in Madison to create funding mechanisms that will remove the 2/3 funding promise for this set of public school students.**

Charter schools are public schools—and if public schools run by districts are going to be funded in large part by the state, it's inconsistent and inequitable to ask the city of Milwaukee taxpayers to pick up most of the tab for public school students who attend independent charter schools. Further, it will dismantle the program and undo the good things you set in motion in 1997.

**Remarks of Rev. Sedgewick Daniels for the Joint Committee on
Finance of the Wisconsin Legislature.**

**Friday, April 20, 2001
Washington High School
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

* * *

My name is Reverend Sedgewick Daniels and I am the pastor of Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ located at 3500 West Mother Daniels Way in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In April of 2000, H.R. Academy, an affiliate of Holy Redeemer, purchased a 100,000 square foot building that housed the Milwaukee Wire Products plant and warehouse on 36th and Hampton. This property adjoins our property and we plan to build a community center on that site by renovating the building.

The site is presently in the center of an area that is not served and yet has great need. The closest youth serving agency is the Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club unit located at Sherman Park and Burleigh Street, which is too far from this neighborhood. There is nothing else. Yet, the immediate area has over 3,500 young people from 6-18 years of age. This does not include the needs of others in the neighborhood. Thus, the proposed community center is designed to meet that need.

The City of Milwaukee School Board is presently negotiating a shared use of the facility to accommodate about 450 students, because of the lack of capacity at the 35th Street School. This will involve about 14 classrooms, administrative space for grades 4-8. This will use about one-third of the building, and the balance of the building will be used for:

1. a conference center;

2. gymnasium;
3. natatorium;
4. cafetorium;
5. lecture center;
6. gift shop;
7. community center;
8. retreat center;
9. exercise center;
10. game room.

The Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee has also expressed a strong interest to operate a unit at the site under the safe and sound program or as a regular unit similar to the Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club at Sherman Park.

The total construction cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$8,000,000, of which \$4,500,000 will come from MPS; the Bradley Foundation has committed \$1,000,000 and the City of Milwaukee and other foundations have contributed another \$400,000. The Church parishioners have contributed the cost of the building and some improvements.

This is a grass roots effort that needs the support of the State of Wisconsin. We are asking the Joint Finance Committee to allocate \$1,000,000 in the forthcoming Budget so that we can complete this project. Attached is a press release issued at the time the church received a grant from the Bradley Foundation for greater details.



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Church gets \$1 million toward youth center

Grant to help Holy Redeemer renovate factory for classes, activities

By TOM HEINEN
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Nov. 25, 2000

Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ, whose \$7 million conversion of an industrial site into a church complex is one of the city's largest faith-based initiatives, was to announce today a \$1 million Bradley Foundation grant toward a new project - a large family/youth center.

The fast-growing church plans to provide school classrooms and a range of services and recreational activities for thousands of neighborhood residents in what normally is a symbol of inner city decay - a former factory.

The 100,000-square-foot building at N. 35th St. and W. Hampton Ave. housed a Milwaukee Wire Products plant and warehouse until April, when the church paid nearly \$1 million in cash to buy it, Pastor Sedgwick Daniels said. It is adjacent to the church's sprawling campus at 3500 W. Mother Daniels Way, one block north of Hampton Ave.

"We've done surveys in the neighborhood, and people expressed an overwhelming need for the programs that will be offered," said Daniels, who added that recent studies show an unusually high concentration of youths in the area.

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"Kids are playing on the streets. It literally will take these children off the streets, away from negative behavior, and put them in a structured environment that is state of the art."

The cost was originally projected as high as \$11.5 million. With some design changes, a lower-than-anticipated purchase price, and sweat-equity by church members, Daniels hopes to cut that by more than half. And he is confident that construction and renovation will begin next year.

"This is a \$5 million initiative, and it's looking extremely good now," said Daniels, who expects the endorsement from a respected, conservative institution like the Bradley Foundation to influence other potential donors.

"It's aggressive, but Holy Redeemer has historically gone after aggressive capital campaigns, and every time we've been a success. . . . We will aggressively pursue other foundations to partner with this project, and upon completion of this project, we want to give the other ministries and other community-based organizations our game plan and our procedures so they don't have to try to reinvent the wheel."

Alicia Campbell, the Bradley Foundation's program officer for faith-based initiatives, said Friday, "Pastor Daniels, by building an authentic community institution and proposing a reasonable plan for enhancing its mission, has made this \$1 million commitment a relatively easy decision for the Bradley Foundation."

MPS could play role

It is unclear how much money for development - or use of - the building might come from Milwaukee Public Schools, which is looking for additional school space in the area as part of its neighborhood schools plan.

The Milwaukee School Board is expected to give a green light Tuesday to further negotiations with Holy Redeemer for the cooperative development and shared use of an existing warehouse facility, with the goal of creating space for 550 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The project is one of 10 potential partnerships between MPS and community groups, including churches, that the School Board is expected to encourage with its action Tuesday.

Holy Redeemer currently has about 600 children from kindergarten through high school elsewhere on the campus in church-run schools that include school choice students. The church also operates two partnership schools with MPS that serve a total of about 160 children, some on the main campus and some at the former church site on Atkinson Ave., Daniels said.

The new project will allow for the expansion of the church-run schools, which have waiting lists, possibly by moving some grades into the converted factory, Daniels said. It hasn't been determined whether a new MPS partnership

school, if approved, would use space in the former factory or in space vacated by the church schools, he added.

Holy Redeemer bought the Milwaukee Wire building and its approximately 2.5-acre site after determining the property was structurally and environmentally sound, Daniels said.

The purchase money came from church members, people who listen to Daniels' daily and weekly broadcasts on WJYI-AM (1340) and WMCS-AM (1290), and other sources. An anonymous donor gave \$100,000. A community development block grant from the city provided \$160,000, he said.

Plans call for the 100,000-square-foot building to be expanded by another 50,000 square feet by adding a second floor.

The 2,500-member church started in 1986 with eight members in rented space in a Lutheran school at N. 40th and W. Auer Ave. Within weeks, it purchased a church at 1238 W. Atkinson Ave.

In 1993 and 1994, the church spent more than \$2.5 million to buy and renovate the core of its current campus, a 5.5-acre site with offices and two warehouses that formerly housed Zien Plumbing and Heating.

In 1998, it built a \$3.5 million sanctuary seating more than 2,000 people, and a \$1.7 million, 22-unit building to house senior citizens across the street.

Currently, the church operates a credit union, a counseling center, a parish-nurse program with Sinai Samaritan Medical Center, a program to help parents be reunited with children in foster care, three shelters for families suffering from domestic abuse, and various adult courses in cooperation with Milwaukee Area Technical College.

"I can't tell you that it hasn't been a struggle," Daniels said. "It has. There have been people within our church who make minimum wage and have contributed enormous amounts of money and made great sacrifices because of the need in the community and the confidence they have in what we are doing.

"There are those that sit back and say what's wrong with the community, and what's wrong with Milwaukee, and what churches or community organizations are not doing. But you must have vision, and with that vision have faith and determination."

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Nov. 26, 2000.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Testimony of Supervisor Dan Diliberti
Joint Committee on Finance
Friday, April 20, 2001

Co-Chair Burke, Co-Chair Gard and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the UW-Extension Best Practices Partnership for Children, Youth and Families budget proposal.

This proposal has received wide support from counties around the state and I'm proud to say, from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Many people think that UW-Extension only serves rural communities, and that 4-H programs are all about cows and corn. Nothing could be further from the truth. In Milwaukee County, and in other urban counties, our Extension programs reflect the needs and priorities of our communities.

The Best Practices Partnership is a proposal that has been designed to address the unique needs of all the communities that are served by Extension. As you've heard from my county board colleagues around the state, almost every county has identified having significant unmet needs in serving children, youth and families in their communities. However, each community may be struggling with different issues that relate to children, youth and families.

The Best Practices Partnership is not one specific program—it is an approach that can be applied to whatever issue or problem a community identifies. The components of this proposal, which may be tapped into individually or as a whole package, will improve the effectiveness of local agencies, strengthen communities and give us better outcomes for the dollars we invest in so many programs and services.

In a big community like Milwaukee, increasing collaboration among agencies is critical to reducing duplication of services. In smaller communities, pulling together a coalition of stakeholders may be the answer to garnering enough resources to provide a program. In a time when we are faced with new and different problems and issues, having a resource for what works best will help communities respond to identified needs more effectively. And finally, by providing all of us with education and technical assistance on performance measures and program evaluation, we can all begin to assess how well, or how poorly, the programs we provide are doing. This will help us make informed decisions about funding and provide a road map to better planning for future initiatives.

UW-Extension offers us a cost-effective way to provide significant education to citizens and communities around the state. There are no winners and losers—just winners. Please support this important prevention proposal

**Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools
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Testimony before the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature
April 20, 2001 Milwaukee Washington High School
Testimony provided by WCRIS Executive Director, Judd Schemmel

Co-Chairperson Gard, Co-Chairperson Burke, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Judd Schemmel and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools. WCRIS is an organization representing more than 750 of Wisconsin's religious and independent K-12 schools, 130,000 students and their parents. Currently, fifty-seven WCRIS member schools participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

I'd like to restrict my comments today to a very narrow provision within the Governor's proposed budget bill related to the MPCP.

Recently, there has been a fair amount of dialogue focused on how best to determine if MPCP participating schools are providing a meaningful, stimulating and credible educational experience for their choice students. The phrase most often used in this discussion is how can we assure that MPCP schools are "accountable" for the instruction and educational environment the schools provide to their choice students. Many who have been involved in this discussion regarding "accountability" would have you believe that MPCP participating schools are accountable to noone. They would also have you believe that accountability, and thus assurance as to the value of the program can only be realized if MPCP schools are required to assess MPCP students in the exact same manner as students attending a public school. We disagree.

We firmly believe that the ultimate accountability an MPCP schools has is to the parents who have chosen to send their child to a participating school. Parents who take the time to investigate the choices made possible through the program, and then decide to enroll their child in a MPCP school are clearly not apathetic about the education of their children. These parents are not going to allow their child to continue to attend any school, including an MPCP school, if they felt the school was failing in the education of their child and not providing their child with the best opportunity to succeed.

The question then becomes, how best do we judge the value the choice program brings to the participating students and their parents. We would urge you to preserve that portion of the budget bill that calls for an independent longitudinal study of the Choice program. An independent longitudinal study will provide the people of Wisconsin an opportunity to examine the value of the choice program as it serves students, many of them academically challenged, over a period of time, as opposed to making a value judgment based on a snap shot. Additionally, not only can a longitudinal study assess the quality of education provided by MPCP schools, it can also measure such factors as graduation

Testimony of WCRIS
April 20, 2001

rates, attendance, the social and interpersonal growth of MPCP students, as well as the satisfaction level of MPCP parents.

We believe the longitudinal study provides an opportunity to view and assess the choice program from a broader, more comprehensive perspective.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'd be happy to address any questions you may have.



April 20, 2001

To: Joint Finance Committee

From: June M. Perry, CEO

New Concept Self Development Center, Inc

The Enrichment Institute

Re: Community Youth Opportunity Grants

I am here today representing your constituents who do not call your offices, who do not come to hearings and who do not write you letters. They are the children of Milwaukee They are children of women and men who are most likely not well educated, who most likely have not had the many positive and productive experiences in life that you and I have but who if asked, on any given day, want the same things that you and I and our children have.

These children, and the parents of these children, want a chance to break out of the cycle of poverty. They want to go to college, they want to have a good job so that they are not forced into the continuing cycle of poverty. They want to see a light oat the end of the tunnel.

The foresight that this committee had in the last budget cycle to include funding for the Community Youth Opportunity grants has helped get many of these children on the road to success. For the first time in the history of our state, significant dollars were directed to prevention programs specifically for children of TANF eligible families. And, for the first time, significant dollars helped keep many of children out of the other programs on which our State spends ten times the \$15 million that was allocated to the CYOG community based efforts statewide.

The children in these program didn't have to be pregnant to get help, they didn't have to be a juvenile delinquent, and they didn't have to be in foster care. As you well know, the costs of teen pregnancy, of juvenile incarceration and of foster care are 100 times more than the cost of community based programs for TANF eligible youth.

(contined)

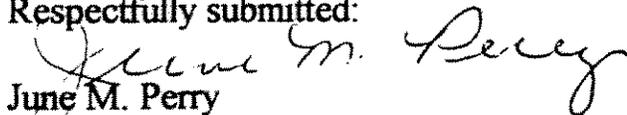
New Concept Self Development Center's Enrichment Institute has used the \$250,000 per year that we received to serve over 1000 of these children in schools, churches and other agencies. We have provided conflict resolution services, human sexuality education to prevent teen pregnancy, anger management services that may prevent juvenile delinquency, tutoring that may well help a young person be better prepared for college and mental health services that may well prevent a suicide, homicide or other act of violence. \$250,000 to serve Over 1000 children...less than \$250 per child...less than \$25 per month. less than \$1.00 per day.

Our **Enrichment Institute** is one of many that has achieved these positive outcomes. Programs such as Safe and Sound, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Youth Leadership Academy and OIC's Youth Computer Technology Institute are all doing the same thing... we are saving children's lives, we are preventing entry into the cycle of poverty... we are giving these children new experiences that they would not get otherwise... we are saving this State millions of dollars.: the dollars that you often struggle with spending on foster care, corrections, school drop out and early out of wedlock pregnancies.

Please consider the importance of breaking the cycle of poverty. We always say we want to do this and we know that prevention works and is cost effective. The \$40000 per year that it costs to incarcerate a juvenile delinquent can help tutor hundreds youth, serve over 3000 children per day in the Safe and Sound program and allow New Concept to train over 300 youth in conflict resolution and anger management.

I am here representing your constituents who will not come to speak. I am speaking for the thousands of children who have benefited from the programs that have been funded these past two years. I am speaking for their parents who are pleased that they are involved in the programs and who see a light at the end of the tunnel that we call breaking the cycle of poverty for a child at a cost of less than \$1.00 per day.

Respectfully submitted:


June M. Perry

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ENRICHMENT INSTITUTE
A DIVISION OF NEW CONCEPT SELF DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.

Enrichment Institute SM

Conflict Resolution Services

Designed to help children learn to deal with conflict and anger in a positive manner.

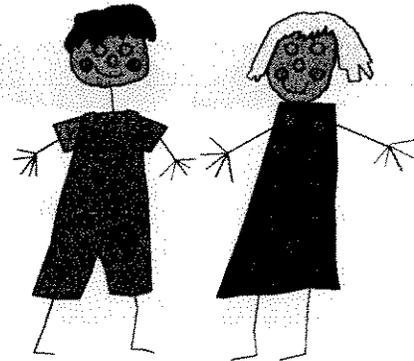
Overview of the Services

Conflicts seem to arise everywhere in people's lives. They can occur at home, at work and at school. We also can experience conflict within ourselves. Conflicts are a natural, perfectly normal part of life. Its how we deal with conflict and anger that will determine whether or not the results are positive or negative.

To assist students with conflict resolution, the Enrichment Institute SM offers individual counseling and/or a six-week group that focuses on understanding conflict and anger and on helping children resolve their feelings in a positive way.

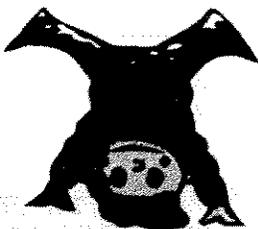
Outline of Group Topics

1. Definitions and Examples of Conflict and Anger
2. Understanding Conflict and Anger
3. Examining Beliefs and Opinions
4. Respecting Others and Their Opinions and Beliefs
5. Communication Skills
6. Problem Solving Skills



Additional Conflict Resolution Services available include Individual Counseling Services for students and Staff Development and Training for school faculty.

For more information or to schedule services at your school, please contact us at 414.442.0288.



NEW CONCEPT
SELF DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.



4840 W. FOND DU LAC AVE MILWAUKEE, WI 53216



*Providing state of the art support to
schools and community agencies*

Adding value to community services

Responding to emerging community needs

SERVICES OFFERED

Support services for schools that will

- ***maximize the potential for positive education outcomes by coordinating or providing***
 - *counseling for students and families*
 - *coordination of special needs resources*
 - *parent training and assistance*
 - *location and coordination of community resources*
 - *volunteer recruitment and coordination*
 - *training and support for education staff*
 - *customized support as defined by school staff*

- ***increase the school's social return on investment***
 - *cost structure based on schools' budget and fiscal capability*
 - *added value to schools realized by EI bringing in resources*
 - *structured EI coordination to include schools' staff's involvement in determining support plan and expected outcomes*

For further information or site visit contact:

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