

A

Joint Finance Committee Testimony

February 13, 2002

school district come directly out of our budget beginning on the first day of summer vacation. It is essential for the state to honor its commitment to two-thirds funding for the K-12 educational system as it relates to "instruction." This directly affects children and once again our future. On the other hand, in my opinion, the state should not have to fund two-thirds of the cost of "new construction," which I'm not sure was ever the original intent of that funding.

The above comments are from my professional position. Please permit me to add some personal thoughts.

I have learned over the years that when discussing a problem it is important to at least suggest a possible solution. In dealing with the difficult issue in front of you we request that the legislature do what we ask of our principals and teachers and that is to always look long-term. One possibility might be to consider temporarily removing certain sales tax exemptions with a sunset after perhaps 3 or 4 years which would allow time for local units of government, including school districts, to look at potential consolidation of services during that time frame. Consolidation of services is a worthwhile idea, but expecting any units of government to do something within 2 or 3 months is unrealistic. We know that the budget shortfall is due to economic conditions and we also know that economic conditions will eventually improve. I strongly ask that whether it be school districts, local units of government, or the state itself that we not devastate the institutions that have made Wisconsin the great place it is to live in for a short-term solution when rather we should be looking long-term.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Doug Happel, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources
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February 13, 2002

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

In recognition of the extremely difficult task in front of you I would like to make the following comments. I do believe that Governor McCallum, in spite of the very serious and realistic concerns by various units of government regarding his budget proposal, deserves recognition and commendation for keeping the focus on the children of the state through the K-12 educational system. Essentially and ultimately these children are the future of Wisconsin.

For the past eight years school districts have been under revenue caps, which have caused severe restrictions on our expenditures. In La Crosse we have attempted to balance another state statute the QEO, which provides approximately 4% total compensation package increases to staff while our revenue caps have been going up only about 2.5%. As a side note, the 4% for staff could be argued by some as too low given the responsibilities our teachers have and the education that we demand of them. To fit within the revenue caps we have cut capital improvements and essentially frozen non-personnel budgets. This is during a time of increased costs for items such as textbooks, utilities, and transportation.

As I speak to you 87% of our budget is in personnel, the vast majority of that being teachers and teacher assistants. In a district with 1,144 employees only 39 are administrators. We have put our money and our resources in front of children. Any significant reductions would come from staff and that would directly affect the classroom. I also must point out that reducing district revenues would make it virtually impossible to continue such outstanding programs as SAGE, which we presently have in all 11 of our elementary schools.

We have settled collective bargaining agreements in our district and next year these will cost approximately an additional \$2,500,000 or about 4% of our personnel budget. Freezing our revenues would result in the layoff of 50 or more staff members. This would also cause a huge increase in our unemployment compensation costs, which in a

February 13, 2003

Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for conducting this hearing and receiving our feedback. I come before you today to request that you support the Governor's proposal to keep education funding as a top priority in the state budget. I want to thank and applaud the Governor for putting a priority on the children in this state in his budget adjustment proposal. I respectfully ask you to oppose any plan that supports a budget freeze or cut that would undermine our state's commitment to its students.

I'm sure you all know the joke that ends with the punch line, "There's a pony in here somewhere." It looks like we're going to have to access that level of optimism as we deal with the current budget deficit in our state. These have been difficult times for all of us who address the challenges of making ends meet. Yet, these are precisely the times when leaders rise to the occasion and make the kinds of tough choices that get us through. As the Governor has stated, "We find resources for what we value." So, this is an opportunity for us to re-examine our values, dig deep, and make the tough choices. We must identify our values as we make recommendations about ways to address the deficit. And that is what leaders do.

Each of you is keenly aware that for the past eight years Wisconsin's schools have struggled under the constraints of revenue limits. We have been working within revenue caps and with lean budgets for years, even when the economy in Wisconsin was robust. In the School District of La Crosse, we have had to make cuts totaling nearly \$16 million dollars over the last eight years. But I'm not here, today, with my revenue cap "crying towel" – rather, I'm here to call your attention to an emerging crisis that is developing in our state's public education system. As difficult as things are with the current state budget deficit, placing a freeze on school district budgets or reducing the budgets would have a catastrophic effect on a public education system that already is stressed by revenue caps. Now you are faced with the decision to consider freezing or cutting in places that will affect lives – lives of children and the lives of the people who are our friends and neighbors – who've dedicated years of service to our schools and have been faithful employees.

So, what can you do? I ask that you support the children of this state and not mortgage our future. I trust that each of you recognizes the public trust and responsibility of your position and I respectfully ask that you continue to work collaboratively to make a positive difference for kids, no matter how difficult the situation we find ourselves in. There is an old saying that states, "There is never a wrong time to do the right thing." It is my hope that you recognize NOW is the right time for YOU to do the right thing. Wisconsin's economic future is tied to maintaining quality public schools. Support public education by not freezing or reducing the budget. Thanks, again, for what you do.

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United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703-2500 Phone (608) 263-3422 Fax (608) 265-4070

Testimony of Craig Trost Legislative Affairs Director United Council of UW Students

Budget Adjustment Bill Before the Joint Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Good morning. My name is Craig Trost and I am the Legislative Affairs Director for the United Council of UW Students, representing approximately 140,000 students on 23 UW campuses.

The UW System is an investment in our future, a future that is currently full of economic struggle. Keeping higher education affordable for the most needy shouldn't be a matter of public debate; it should be a matter of public policy. However, despite this, tuition increased nearly twice the rate of inflation this year for resident undergraduate students. Also, through the 2001-2003 biennial budget, Wisconsin became the second most expensive school in the Big Ten for non-resident students. This all comes at a time when the average UW student graduates more than \$15,000 in debt. In response to these statistics, you will here that the UW System is still a good deal and our tuition isn't that high, as compared to our "peers" in our athletic conference, the Big Ten.

The UW System is the engine that drives the state's economy. At a time of economic downturn, students recognize we are not immune to the realities of our economy, but we shouldn't be responsible for this economy either. A UW study found that for every one dollar the state invests in the UW System, it sees a three-dollar return on its investment.

The Governor even said during his budget adjustment speech, "I don't want these reductions passed on to students." Yet he wants to increase tuition next year another ten percent, that's about five times the rate of inflation. When people loose their jobs because the economy is in a recession, they look to higher education to be retrained so they can provide a future for their families.

When you hear people say our tuition isn't that high, compared to a bunch of peer schools who are not investing in their future, I encourage you to remember the Wisconsin Idea. This should not be a race to the bottom; this should be a race to the top. I am here on behalf of the students who never graduated because they couldn't afford to make their dreams a reality; and for the students who will have to drop out of college if tuition keeps skyrocketing.

For every \$100 increase in tuition, we will see a 2.2 percent decrease in enrollment. Next year, this means the UW System will lose over 7,000 students. These are the most needy students. These students will give back three-fold to this economy when they graduate. At a time when students are struggling more and more to afford school, now is a time to invest in the future of this state's economy by investing in the UW System.

I encourage the Joint Committee on Finance to cap tuition increases at the rate of inflation to keep the UW System affordable for Wisconsin's working families. Furthermore, I encourage you to take up the spirit of Assembly Bill 194 and Senate Bill 79 and link financial aid increases to tuition increases to keep the UW System affordable for those less fortunate.

Thank you for your time to speak before you today.

Kaylyn J. Jennik

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February 13, 2002

To: Joint Finance Committee Members
Re: Governor's Budget Adjustment Bill

When I entered UW-Stevens Point four years ago, I was amazed at the education I could receive for such a minimal cost. As a student paying for my own education, I was able to pay for tuition with summer jobs, and minimal work while in school. Over, these past few years that has changed. I now have to work through school, and put in more hours during the summer. This story is not just mine. Many of my fellow students have been feeling the pain of having to pay more for an excellent education. In this next year, I have heard stories of even larger tuition increases in store for students.

I know students already working more then 20 hours a week in addition to their classes. Some have children of their own, and are already swamped with financial aid loans. These students will graduate so far in debt their contribution to Wisconsin's economy will be years after they graduate. I will graduate this May over \$5,000 in debt. This is a small amount compared with many of my peers.

As the economy started to decline I knew tuition increases would most likely be in store for students. Many students understand we must do our part, but it is important to realize large increases would price many students out of education or even further into debt. I asked students what they would do if tuition increased more then \$100 next semester. Many of the students replied they would have to work more hours, or take more loans. One student, Nicholas Reinke, said he would have to drop out of school. His financial aid is already at its maximum, and his parents cannot contribute. He already works more then he should to be able to excel in his Paper Studies program. He will likely be in school for three more years, but would not be able to maintain higher tuition levels.

While most students agreed they would pay the exorbitant tuition amounts, this does not justify treating higher education as a supply-demand market. Just because students are willing and some able to pay, does not mean tuition should continue to increase. Tuition should not be used to control enrollment that is the job of educational standards.

Education, including higher education, should be priority in this state, and that includes keeping tuition levels low. I know there are tough decisions ahead for the future of Wisconsin's budget, but please set the precedent, that the economy of the state will not fall on the backs of students. I wish I knew where cuts could come from, but I don't have the answers. I do know students cannot sustain increased tuition, which would ultimately hurt the state in the long run. Higher education should be available to all students. Tuition increases will decrease enrollment, plunge students further into debt, and hurt students education, because they will have to work more hours.

I will be graduating this May, but if it was difficult for me to pay when tuition was frozen, I am scared to think of what will happen to students as tuition continues to climb.

Sincerely,
Kaylyn J. Jennik

**Joint Finance Committee
Hearing on February 13, 2002**

**Testimony of Adam J. Mueller
Student Body President, UW – La Crosse**

As the Student President at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, I am deeply concerned in regards to the proposed budget implications on students in higher education in Wisconsin. I am in constant contact with multitudes of students and a reoccurring theme of conversation is the continual massive increases in tuition to attend a public institution such as UW – La Crosse. Many students share stories of how the rise in the cost of education has left them out in the cold, unable to pay for registration deposits, require additional loans, need to take half-time credit loads so they can work full-time, or simply being forced to drop out of the public university because the cost is too high. I can empathize with this feeling, as I will be graduating from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse with \$25,000 in LOANS! This is all too common from students across the public higher education institutions.

Over the course of four years, I have been a full time student and have held two to three jobs at all times, including working full time in the summer. Over 150,000 students are within the UW System. Students are the driving force of the Wisconsin economy. This biennial budget must be realigned to make a strong commitment that Wisconsin is investing in its future. Students are being taxed out of an education and as our state representatives, I urge you to say Not With Student's Money.

Students across the campus and state are concerned with the outcome of this biennial budget. In November 2000, 83% of students living in on campus housing at UW-L exercised their accountability over government officials by voting. These 2,300 votes were instrumental in certain races and students ensured their voice and issues were heard. As a student body we seek to strengthen our relationship with our State Legislators to ensure that students are given the opportunity to attend the public higher education institutions of Wisconsin.

Adam J. Mueller, UW-L Student Body President
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February 13, 2002

TO: Joint Finance Committee

RE: Governor McCallum Budget Adjustment Bill

I thank you for the opportunity to present information regarding the budget adjustment bill. I stand in support of the Governor's school funding proposal and would like to publicly thank Governor McCallum for supporting K-12 public education in his budget adjustment proposal.

I am the district administrator for Pecatonica Area Schools, a small rural consolidated school district 35 miles southwest of Madison. I serve 518 students and their families, 46 professional staff, 26 support staff, and one other licensed administrator. These numbers may not sound large compared to others that you will hear about today. But I believe Pecatonica's story is representative of the nearly 50% of Wisconsin schools with enrollment under 1000 students. Pecatonica is also representative of the 50% of Wisconsin schools facing revenue shortfalls due to declining enrollment.

I fully recognize that funding for K-12 public education is a significant portion of the state's budget. As Wisconsin faces a very difficult fiscal crisis, the big-ticket items in the state budget have to be examined. It is also important to remember, however, that the revenue caps that schools have been living with for the past eight years, have yearly forced schools to make cuts and juggle priorities to maintain adequate programming for our students.

Because revenue caps are directly linked to enrollment, Pecatonica has seen an ever-widening gap between the cost of programs and our ability to fund those programs. In the last eight years, we have made numerous cuts to program areas: the Family and Consumer Education Program (We now have only two vocational programs: Business Ed and Agriculture.), one elementary teaching position, one half-time technology teacher/trainer, one library aide, and one administrator. Additionally, many line items have been removed from our budget. For example, we rely solely on grants to fund our professional development activities. We rely on our TEACH funds for all increases in technological hardware. We have also made cuts in field trips, extra-curricular activities, equipment, and supplies.

Each year the challenge has been more difficult as enrollments continue to decline, yet fewer options exist for cuts that don't compromise our students' education. Small schools face the unique difficulties of needing to retain staff in spite of fewer students: You need Spanish 3 and 4 classes whether there are 25 students or 15 students in those classes. You need two fifth grader teachers whether the class has 55 students or 35 students, even though the loss of students has resulted in the loss of revenue to pay for two teachers. Additionally, new needs require additional resources that require even greater cuts in other areas.

As the attached handout indicates, prior to any considerations of a budget repair bill, Pecatonica was facing a budget shortfall of approximately \$160,000. Due to enrollment numbers, our total increase in revenue for the next school year would be less than \$50,000. Increases in salary and benefits for those currently under contract will be three times that figure. Governor McCallum's proposal adds slightly to that deficit, and holds the overall district budget increase to less than one percent.

We have identified \$100,000 worth of cuts in materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, technology, interns, and maintenance costs. That still leaves an imbalance of over \$60,000 that can only be met with additional staff and program cuts. The imposition of a revenue cap freeze would extend this imbalance by at least an additional \$100,000.

What will the resulting additional cuts mean for Pecatonica students? We have identified 15 staff members (including 28% of the professional staff) who will face at least partial layoff notices in April if budget decisions have not yet been made at the state level. That will mean fewer classes in art, music, business, ag, science, and history. One of our two remaining vocational programs could be totally eliminated. It also means reduced access by students and staff to the guidance counselor (four days a week), school psychologist (3 days a week shared between two buildings), and library media specialist (two days per week in each building). We are seeking community volunteers to help keep the library open for student use when the library media specialist is not available since we cut the library aide last year. Students wanting to take Spanish 3 and 4 may find Internet or correspondence courses as the only options available to them.

The enactment of a freeze would be devastating for Pecatonica – and numerous small schools just like us across the state. We are struggling with the results of eight years of reduced revenues. This year we face the most significant cuts yet - without the freeze. Pecatonica's students need and rely on the state's commitment to fund public education. I appreciate Governor McCallum's leadership to preserve that funding, and I encourage you to support his school funding proposal.

Thank you,

Nancy Hendrickson
Superintendent
Pecatonica Area Schools

2002-03 Budget

Pecatonica Area Schools

	Revenues	Costs		
Increase in total revenue:	\$49,778			
Staff salary and fringe increases:		\$152,238		
Beginning budget shortfall (from FY 02):		\$23,567		
Non-salary increases:		\$33,973	3%	Shortfall
TOTAL:	\$49,778	\$209,778		\$160,000

Preliminary budget projections: Prior to budget repair discussions

	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
Revenue Cap	\$3,857,476	\$3,907,254	\$49,778	
State Aid	\$2,807,194	\$2,749,063	-\$58,131	
Taxes	\$1,048,964	\$1,158,191	\$109,227	
Budget	\$4,132,349	\$4,182,127	\$49,778	
		Shortfall:	-\$160,000	

Governor McCallum's Proposal with revenue cap increase at \$210/student

	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
Revenue Cap	\$3,857,476	\$3,898,698	\$41,222	
State Aid	\$2,807,194	\$2,749,063	-\$58,131	
Taxes	\$1,048,964	\$1,149,635	\$100,671	
Budget	\$4,132,349	\$4,173,571	\$41,222	-\$8,556
		Shortfall:	-\$168,556	

Freeze Proposal with revenue cap at 2001-02 levels

	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
Revenue Cap	\$3,857,476	\$3,702,290	-\$155,186	
State Aid	\$2,807,194	\$2,653,326	-\$153,868	
Taxes	\$1,048,964	\$1,048,964	\$0	
Budget	\$4,132,349	\$3,977,163	-\$155,186	-\$105,408
		Shortfall:	-\$265,408	

Additional Impacts:

Eliminate SAGE:	\$22,000	Total Possible Shortfall:
"Stall" TEACH funding:	\$25,000	

Staff cuts under consideration after \$100,000 reductions in non-staff costs: \$68,556 - \$212,408

Support Services		Specials		Core Academics	
Lead Teacher	\$44,000	Ag Program by 33%	\$16,750	Special Ed .25 FTE	\$12,260
Study Hall Aide	\$20,115	Ag Program	\$69,122	MS History by 33%	\$12,555
Psychologist by 20%	\$11,409	Art Program by 60%	\$39,290	HS History by 33%	\$12,555
HS Guidance by 20%	\$9,284	Business by 33%	\$16,812	HS Science by 17%	\$8,040
LMS by 20%	\$10,510	Business Program	\$62,688		
Coaches/Adv by 10%	\$6,500	Music by 20%	\$9,339	Total:	\$254,885 w/o total
Custodial Staff	\$10,650	Spanish by 33%	\$14,846		program eliminations

These figures are based on 2001-02 salary schedules and do not include unemployment compensation.

Testimony of Benjamin J. Brost

Vice President

Student Governance Council
University of Wisconsin Colleges

Budget Adjustment Bill

Before the Joint Committee on Finance

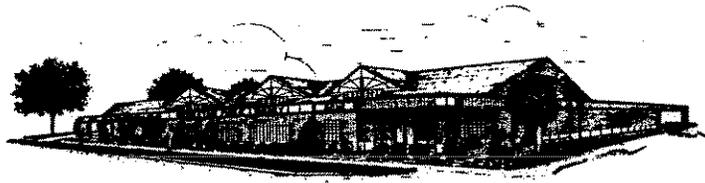
Good Morning. My name is Benjamin Brost, and I am the Vice President of the Student Governance Council of the University of Wisconsin Colleges, representing over 10,000 students in the 13-freshman/sophomore campuses within the UW System.

Today is not a time for looking back on what we have done with pride, or look in the present for what we have, but to look to the future to see what is coming, and how we can help the process. What is coming? The students of the UW System today are coming into the working world. The people that will be in the working world of tomorrow are the students of the UW System today. Today is a day to invest in tomorrow. Today is a day to look out for our future, the students of the UW System.

Keeping tuition a matter of public debate and not a matter of public policy has gone on too long. The rising costs of tuition, and financial aid increases remaining dormant, students of the UW Colleges are being forced to be less than full time status, thus taking longer for them to receive their degree, if they are lucky. Some other students have been completely priced out of an education. I am here on behalf of the students of the UW Colleges, doing my best to ensure that tuition goes up no faster than the rate of inflation, and financial aid increases as much as tuition.

After working 2 jobs this summer, plus working part time this year, I have been able to afford my education, but I have had to tighten my belt, and work just that much harder. I now work 20 hours a week to support myself, and at times, cant afford to eat. I will not allow myself to be priced out of an education.

I will not be denied my education, nor will I allow my peers, the students of the UW Colleges, to be priced out of an education. I will do everything in my power as a student to ensure equal access to higher education for my peers. I hope that you will do the same. Thank you for your time today.



Middleton Public Library • 7425 Hubbard Avenue • Middleton, WI 53562
 Paul Nelson, Director • 608/831-5564

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance Against AB 1

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Finance,

My name is Paul Nelson. I serve as Director of the Middleton Public Library and the chair of the Library Development & Legislation Committee of the Wisconsin Library Association. I thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony at this time.

Governor McCallum's budget reform bill has caused a great deal of consternation throughout the state, especially among local and county officials. After reviewing the specifics of the bill, I can assure you that it is an especially troubling piece of legislation for libraries.

HERE ARE THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS.

Agency	Title	FY2001-02	FY2002-03
Department of Public Instruction	Aids to public library systems	-0	-\$737,500
Department of Public Instruction	Library service contracts	-0	-\$ 52,400
UW System	General program operations	- \$10,097,000	-\$40,386,400
Wis. Technical College System	State aid	-0	-\$5,328,700
State Historical Society	General program operations	-\$251,400	-\$359,200
State shared revenues	(4 different areas)	-0	-\$730,000,000

What are the impacts of these cuts?

1. Public libraries get hit with a "triple whammy".

- Reduced public library system funding, for which there was only a 1.7% increase in the 2001-2003 biennium, will result in **an inability to maintain current levels of shared services** within these regional partnerships: shared computer systems (LINKcat, in our case), delivery of library materials, shared subscriptions to online databases, and computer training and other continuing education activities.

Middleton's membership in the South Central Library System allows us to offer an array of services that would be impossible to do on our own without at least a 50% increase in our budget.

- The proposed phase-out of state shared revenues to counties will result in reduced financial support to municipal libraries.
- The proposed phase-out of state shared revenues to municipalities will require all libraries to make budget cuts that are likely lead to **reduced hours, staff, materials, and/or programs**, depending upon the municipality's dependency on shared aids. In the bill's current form, some libraries will even be forced to close their doors.

2. The statewide library service contracts offer specialized services to Wisconsin residents, such as those offered by the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped.
3. The ripple effect of cuts to the UW and technical college system, as well as the State Historical Society, which houses one of the best genealogy collection in the U.S., will certainly be felt by their libraries.

I have worked as a librarian in the state of Wisconsin for 24 years. During all this time, I never seen such a bleak future for libraries. It has come to the point where I now have the added annoyance of a knot in my stomach during the workday.

My concerns about this budget are not limited to libraries. As resident of the City of Middleton and Dane County, I can envision the devastating impacts to services that will be felt across the board. I have to be blunt and say that this budget reform bill is one of the most ill-considered pieces of legislation that I have seen during the 24 years I have lived in Wisconsin.

A number of thoughtful alternatives to the current budget reform bill have been put forward for discussion. The Wisconsin Library Association hopes that the Joint Committee on Finance will gives these a fair hearing during its deliberations

Thank you again for this opportunity to present this testimony.

(Submitted February 13, 2002)

Hartford Public Library
115 N. Main Street
Hartford, WI 53027-1596
February 11, 2002

Joint Finance Committee
State Capitol Building

Honorable Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to present testimony in oral or written form regarding Governor McCallum's Budget Repair proposals.

On behalf of the Hartford Public Library Board of Trustees and staff, I respectfully request that the Joint Finance Committee reject Governor McCallum's proposed cuts to the Wisconsin budget that will greatly impact library service to the citizens of this state. Of primary concern to every public library is the elimination of the state-shared revenues to municipalities and counties. Here in our community, the library would face cuts to our current operating budget of at least \$125,000, which is approximately 20% of our budget! This would lead to the elimination of three part-time staff members (25% of our total staff) and at least half of the new materials budget for the year. Losing staff also leads to a reduction of business hours, severely hampering our ability to try to serve people when its most convenient for them. Hartford would actually have it better than some neighboring communities. Several will be forced to totally eliminate their libraries, or cut service to such a point that the library loses its credibility as a public service.

The Governor also proposes cuts of at least 5% in state aid to the public library systems, the budget for the Department of Public Instruction and the UW System. State financial support to the public library systems was frozen in the budget process last year, and cutting \$735,000 more means that the seventeen systems must further reduce service to their members libraries in some way. Most have decided to cancel subscriptions to shared online databases that benefit people in the entire system area as member libraries individually could not afford such programs. DPI faces total reductions of over \$1 million dollars in its operating budget if the plan is adopted, which will lead to staff reductions and less service to all types of libraries which rely on DPI for consultation and advice in many areas, especially technology. Cuts to the UW systems budget always manage to find their way to the various library operations on the campuses. Fewer staff, less hours, cancelled subscriptions and fewer books. Just what the students need to get the best bang for their tuition dollars.

There is no easy answer to the state's budget shortfall, but elimination of state-shared revenues will lead to a severe reduction in public library service around this state. Libraries may not be considered essential to municipal operations, but they certainly are involved with both a municipality's and the state's quality of life. The Governor's current proposals will greatly erode the libraries' role in Wisconsin's quality of life for its citizens.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express our views on this budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Gelhausen
Director – Hartford Public Library
Past-President – Wisc. Library Association

Joint Finance Committee Hearing on AB1, January 2002 Special Session
February 13, 2002

Written Testimony submitted by Sharon L. Winkle, Director of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI

BUDGET REFORM BILL WILL DECREASE PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING AND SERVICES

Mead Public Library

State shared revenues, introduced in 1911, help fund local public libraries. Reducing or eliminating these revenues will force cities like Sheboygan to reduce or eliminate public library services. Governor McCallum has urged local governments not to reduce public safety services. So if his Budget Reform Bill passes the legislature as proposed, local elected officials may have no choice but to greatly reduce or eliminate funding for Mead Public Library. What services will they be forced to cut when operating funds are reduced by 6.33 % in 2002 and 2003 and by 42% in 2004? For example, 6.33% of Sheboygan's Police and Fire department budgets for 2002 is \$942,756 – that's 37% of the City's Library Fund for 2002

The Importance of Libraries to Wisconsin

Thus far, Governor McCallum has remained silent on the importance of public libraries to Wisconsin residents. But in 1985, the state legislature adopted the following and made it part of Wisconsin's "Library Law".

The legislature recognizes:

The importance of free access to knowledge, information and diversity of ideas by all residents of this state;
The critical role played by public, school, special and academic libraries in providing that access;
The major educational, cultural and economic asset that is represented in the collective knowledge and information resources of the state's libraries;
The importance of public libraries to the democratic process, and
That the most effective use of library resources in this state can occur only through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries and the effective use of technology.

The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide laws for the development and improvement of public libraries, school libraries and interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries.

Library System Funding

Public library system aids provided by the state help fund shared computer catalog and delivery systems like EasiCat. They help libraries share materials in a cost effective manner for the benefit of residents. Yet Governor McCallum's Budget Reform Bill calls for a reduction in state support for library service systems like the Eastern Shores Library Service System that serves libraries and residents in Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties.

Other Public Library Services

Governor McCallum's Budget Reform Bill cuts funding for university, technical school, and state historical society libraries. It's clear that many library services intended to serve Wisconsin residents – as students, researchers, and public library customers – will no longer exist if the Budget Reform Bill is passed as proposed.

Please oppose AB1 and Support Federal Library Initiatives

The way we live from day to day in communities throughout Wisconsin could be forever changed for the worse if the Governor's Budget Reform Bill is passed as proposed. Demand for public library service is not decreasing. For example, in Sheboygan check outs increased by over 5% for 2001 compared with 2000. Use of in-house services increased by 4%. People turn to their public libraries for even more service of importance to themselves and their children during periods of economic downturn. Closing libraries just does not make sense at this, or any, time.

Yes, public safety and security are important. But President Bush has also announced the "No Child Left Behind" program. Public libraries are important partners for schools in achievement of the emergent literacy and other aims of this program. And the Bush administration is so concerned about the future of public library service that it has proposed a \$10 million program to recruit and train library professionals. This is no time for Wisconsin to eliminate local funding for the very services that bring together individual residents to create the communities that make life worthwhile and help assure the success of all citizens.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jesse Strawn. I am the Legislative Affairs Director of the University of Wisconsin-Superior Student Senate. I am writing to you as a student only, although I feel confident that I speak for many of my fellow students.

Quality, affordable education has been a tradition in Wisconsin for decades, and this tradition should carry through even the toughest of economic times. The future of our state and our nation rests in the continued support of our primary and secondary education. As jobs become harder to find, keeping tuition in check becomes a key component in the future of most all secondary education participants.

I work part time as a bartender, my girlfriend, who also attends UW-Superior, works full time as a waitress. I received student loans and gratefully accepted a moderate amount from WHEG for the last few semesters. I worked full-time all last semester and worked two full-time jobs over the summer. My girlfriend worked three jobs. We managed to save a nice little nest egg, but this has withered over the past months. Even in a two-income household (my girlfriend and me), supplemented with financial aid, we are being priced out of an education. An education that everyone should have a right to.

Through no fault of their own, thousands of young people in Wisconsin are being denied an education due to economic shortcomings. Future teachers, professionals, business leaders, even future politicians are witnessing the door of educational opportunity slam in their faces. Issues like tax-exempt textbooks, linking financial aid increases to tuition increases, and increasing the WHEG are all important concepts.

However, if the trend of balancing the budget on the backs of students continues, than many of our future leaders and business-minded people in our great state will be denied their rightful place, with or without the beforementioned proposals of financial relief. I am an average student, with amazing potential. Potential that will bolster Wisconsin, but would not exist outside an affordable university that fosters my aspirations. A university like the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of February, 2002.

NEWS RELEASE

MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002

District Has Cut Over \$17.5 Million Since 1993

Revenue Limits Force Elimination of Almost 170 Positions

The Madison Metropolitan School District has cut over \$17.5 million and eliminated nearly 170 positions since the inception of state-imposed revenue limits in 1993, according to information released by the district today.

"Revenue limits have forced schools to cut year after year," said Supt. Art Rainwater. "It's critically important that we not further reduce funding to k-12 schools. Even with the Governor's repair budget – which essentially holds schools harmless – we estimate that another \$5-7 million will have to be cut from the budget we craft this spring. We've been feeling the pain of service reductions for almost a decade," Rainwater said.

Revenue limits restrict the amount of revenue a district can raise from local property tax payers without going to referendum. The state picks up two-thirds of the total cost of K-12 education, with the actual percentage determined by a community's property value. Far from being funded at two-thirds, Madison receives only about 25% of its budget from the state.

Rainwater urged a comprehensive review of school funding in Wisconsin in preparation for the 2003-05 biennial budget. "Schools can't continue down this road. We are jeopardizing one of the nation's best school systems," Rainwater said. "We've eliminated programs, cut back on classroom technology, and consolidated and streamlined functions. We're at the bone marrow.

"Last year we *added* \$2.1 million for over 40 positions for special education and bilingual programs that are inadequately funded state and federal mandates, while we cut nearly \$5.5 million from our total budget. Continuing business as usual requires schools to cannibalize the regular education program. It's a ticket to educational disaster," Rainwater said. The Department of Public Instruction estimates that state reimbursement for special education programs will fall to about 30%, with a less than 17% reimbursement for bilingual programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SPEAK WITH SUPT. RAINWATER, CONTACT:

Ken Syke, 663-1903

Listing of budget cuts since 1993 is available.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

545 W. DAYTON STREET, MADISON, WI 53703

PHONE (608)663-1879 - FAX (608)204-0342

Madison Metropolitan School District

MMSD Budget Cuts Since Enactment of State Revenue Cap in 1993

1993-94 Budget

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Amount of Reduction</u>
1.0 Food Services Computer Coordinator	\$27,000
0.5 Building Services Equipment Operator	\$14,000
1.0 Safety Transportation Coordinator	\$65,000
1.0 West Area Administrator for Integrated Student Services	\$65,000
Building Services seasonal maintenance	\$20,000
1.0 Clerical - Curriculum & Staff Development Dept.	\$27,000
1.0 Math Coordinator	\$65,000
0.5 Reading/Language Arts Coordinator	\$33,000
Central administration furniture and equipment	\$18,000
Consultant services - Management Information Services Dept.	\$10,000
Extended employment pay - high school assistant principals	\$5,000
Administrative substitutes - Integrated Student Services Dept.	\$10,000
Extended employment pay - summer special ed evaluations	\$23,000
Program Development and Improvement	\$325,000
38.0 Teacher positions to reduce staffing to 1990-91 level	\$1,368,000
3.0 Elementary School Teachers	\$108,000
1.0 Limited English Proficiency Teacher	\$36,000
1.0 CCI Math Teacher	\$36,000
1.6 Psychologist, 1.5 Social Worker, 2.0 Nurse, 1.0 Nurse Asst.	\$214,000
High School Substitute Teachers	\$7,000
Middle School Substitute Teachers	\$7,000
Elementary School Substitute Teachers	\$15,000
3.7 Talented & Gifted Program Teachers	\$133,000
1.0 Autism Specialist	\$36,000
1.5 Special Education Program Support Teachers	\$54,000
2.9 Reading Resource Teachers	\$104,000
0.6 Early Childhood Physical Education Teacher	\$22,000
0.75 Early Childhood Librarian	\$27,000
Summer school (elem. & middle) - 2nd session '93, 1st session '94	\$300,000
Reduction in summer school (high school)	\$15,000
Summer school for students with disabilities (elem. & middle)	\$74,000
Music summer school	\$19,000
Summer Work/Learn Program - Environmental Education	\$35,000
Text Materials	\$207,000
17.5 Custodians	\$490,000
Building maintenance, improvements & equipment	\$100,000
School formula funds (school materials, supplies & equipment)	\$215,000
Middle school equipment	\$20,000

Elementary school equipment	\$66,000
Audiovisual materials	\$24,500
Library media materials	\$5,500
Psychology & Social Work supplies, materials & equipment	\$20,000
Madison School-Community Recreation (MSCR) programs	\$55,000
Summer recreation program - MSCR & Integrated Student Services	\$58,000
Reduce operating reserve	\$2,500,000
Total	\$7,078,000

1994-95 Budget

Participatory Mgmt/Organization Action Plan (Madison Schools 2000)	\$88,000
Superintendent's Mini Grant Fund	\$32,000
High School Alternative to Suspension Program	\$35,000
1.0 Learning Coordinator & 0.4 Teacher/Psychologist/Social Worker	\$58,000
Elementary Substitute Teachers	\$30,000
0.5 Counselor - Shabazz/Work Learn Center	\$18,000
1.0 Psychologist Intern	\$25,000
Substitutes for Psychologists and Social Workers	\$34,350
1.0 School Nurse	\$72,000
Summer school - hospital program	\$7,000
Hepatitis B vaccinations	\$59,000
Per pupil formula allotments (elem., middle & high) - materials, etc.	\$65,000
Facility rental space - Thoreau	\$20,000
Reduce custodial overtime	\$51,000
Total	\$594,350

1995-96 Budget

Assistant Principal - Jefferson	\$35,000
Research & Evaluation Dept. supplies and materials	\$10,000
Reduce Business & Education Partnership	\$2,532
2.0 Micro Computing Assistants	\$56,000
0.8 Science Materials Teacher	\$33,000
1.0 Speech & Language Program Support Teacher	\$37,000
1.0 Reading Project Teacher	\$37,000
1.9 Art, Music and Physical Education Teachers	\$70,000
1.0 Technology Teacher	\$37,000
1.0 Educational Assistant - School Age Parent Program	\$12,000
0.9 Middle School Transitional Homebound Teacher	\$33,000
Middle school materials and equipment	\$8,500
Fair Aid Coalition dues	\$6,100
1.0 Carpenter	\$48,000
Alternative school rental	\$200,000
Custodial overtime	\$70,000
LIC Transportation	\$50,000
Total	\$745,132

1996-97 Budget

Business Services Dept. - clerical	\$8,400
Program Improvement	\$116,000
Extended employment pay - Elementary School Principals	\$27,000
Management Information Services Dept.	\$30,000
Research & Evaluation Dept.	\$12,900
Library Media Services Dept.	\$25,000
Customer Services Dept.	\$5,000
Human Resources Dept.	\$5,000
Labor Relations Dept.	\$5,000
Equity, Diversity & Advocacy Dept.	\$7,500
Madison School-Community Recreation Dept.	\$40,000
1.0 Special Education Administrative Program Support Teacher	\$39,000
Middle School Educational Assistants - clerical	\$38,000
1.0 Elementary Intern	\$18,000
Instructional services - Dane County Jail	\$14,000
O'Keeffe maintenance	\$293,000
High school security	\$50,000
Muir Parent Involvement Program	\$5,200
Four Lakes Athletics basketball program	\$15,100
Total	\$754,100

1997-98 Budget

1.0 Assistant Superintendent	\$110,000
1.0 Central Office Math Support position	\$40,000
2.0 Central Office Science Support positions	\$80,000
1.0 Central Office TAG position	\$40,000
3.0 Equity, Diversity, Advocacy positions	\$120,000
Area Support team	\$16,000
Close Downtown Arts & Activities Center	\$110,000
Eliminate Area Success Funds	\$400,000
Eliminate Boys Gymnastics	\$17,000
Eliminate Mini-Grants	\$33,000
Eliminate Parenting Courses	\$20,000
Eliminate Parent Component of 4-yr. Old program	\$6,000
Eliminate Support for Mentoring Activities	\$23,000
Eliminate funding for Teachers Workshop (Materials/Supplies)	\$6,850
Eliminate Select Partnership Activities	\$13,500
Total	\$1,035,850

1998-99 Budget

Phase-out Alternative to Suspensions program/Family Community Liaison	\$127,000
Phase out FAST Program	\$55,000
Reduce Variety of Administrative Expenses	\$25,000
Reduce Research & Evaluation	\$7,500
Eliminate Funding for "Baby Steps"	\$5,000
Total	\$229,500

1999-00 Budget

1.0 Administrative Interns – Grow Our Own Program	\$42,000
4.45 Art, Music, Physical Education and REACH Teachers	\$187,000
Alternative Programs – Equipment and Materials	\$26,844
LEP – Technical Training/Professional Improvement	\$3,500
Psychologist/Social Work Equipment	\$2,900
Guidance Materials	\$5,000
Program Improvement/Staff Development Projects	\$298,170
Media Services – Equipment and Materials	\$20,000
Support Services Interns	\$10,000
MSCR Program	\$30,000
Total	\$625,414

2000-01 Budget

Administrator Sabbatical	\$40,000
1.0 FTE Support Staff Human Resources	\$59,000
1.0 Administrator/Supervisor Building Services	\$70,000
Teacher Substitutes – Administrative Purposes	\$50,000
Reduce Unallocated Position: Special Education	\$44,000
Reduce Unallocated Position: English as a Second Language	44,000
Human Resources	\$25,000
Library Media	\$17,800
Technology	\$50,000
Food	\$4,382
Community Development	\$10,000
Grants/Registrar/Research & Evaluation	\$10,000
Maintenance and Operations Equipment	\$65,000
Staff and Student Equity	\$10,000
Finance Services	\$10,000
Administrative Travel	\$25,000
Staff & Organization Development	\$18,000
Move expenses to IDEA Flow Through	\$428,421
Total	\$980,549

2001-02 Budget

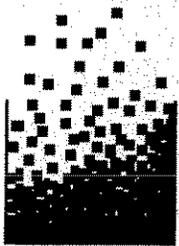
4.90 Elementary Unallocated	\$240,354
7.00 Elementary Four Year Old Program	\$340,260
2.00 Elementary Four Year Old EA's	\$47,702
3.00 Middle School Unallocated	\$147,156
2.00 MSA Teachers	\$95,000
1.00 MSA Clerical	\$38,000
Move to Flow-thru	\$94,805
1.0 Media Processing	\$50,000
Transportation (double runs)	\$350,000
0.40 Human Resources Psychologist	\$16,380
1.00 Human Resources Law Clerk	\$30,000
Student Fees Increase	\$80,000
0.50 Conflict Resolution Staff	\$23,750
MSCR Misc Reductions	\$100,000
Environmental Education Transportation	\$16,600
EAP (Consultation Program)	\$5,000
Postage	\$40,000
Special Education Reductions/Flow-thru	\$487,000
1.00 Educational Services Clerical	\$51,321
Accounting Clerical Temp	\$16,000

Contingency	\$350,000
Chavez Formula	\$40,000
Local Travel	\$20,000
Food	\$60,000
Workshops & Conferences	\$100,000
Public Information Office	\$4,300
Consultants	\$3,000
1.00 Technology Coordinator/Administrator	\$83,318
1.40 Teaching & Learning	\$66,500
2.50 Custodial Permanent Substitutes	\$125,602
Technology/Computers	\$50,000
Part-time to Full-time Custodial Staff	\$40,000
0.5 Guidance PST	\$23,500
Business Services Reductions	\$100,000
Educational Services Transfer to Grant	\$100,000
Rise Equipment/Supplies	\$60,000
General Admin Supplies/Equipment	\$28,400
District-Wide Consultants	\$50,000

2001-02 One-Time Funding (eliminated in 2002-03 budget)

1.00 Bldg Services Project Manager/Arch Serv	\$91,318
1.00 Media Repair Staff	\$51,321
1.00 Mail Driver	\$50,281
Outsourcing Savings	\$50,000
1.00 ESL PST	\$47,500
1.00 Educational Services Clerical	\$51,321
2.00 Educational Services PST	\$95,000
1.00 Joining Forces For Families Staff	\$47,500
0.40 Outdoor Agriculture	\$19,000
1.00 Stress Challenge Staff	\$47,500
Centro Hispano	\$75,000
Bootstrap	\$85,000
MYCAP	\$34,500
2.00 Spring Harbor/Wright Small School Staff	\$95,000
1.00 Elementary Asst Principal	\$85,985
1.00 Accountant	\$91,318
1.00 HR/Payroll Clerical	\$51,321
1.00 Truancy Staff	\$38,000
3.00 Special Ed/Regular Ed Collaboration Initiative	\$142,500
1.00 Planetarium	\$81,209
Staff Development-Summer Institute	\$50,000
Community Organization Support	\$25,000
Urban League Match (MS)	\$35,000
1.5 Media Processing	\$55,000
1.0 Administrative Clerical	\$50,000
Evaluation of Math	\$25,000
Total	\$5,496,272

GRAND TOTAL \$17,539,167
166.10 positions eliminated



South Central Library System

Administration Office

5250 East Terrace Drive, Suite A • Madison, WI 53718-8345

608/246-7970 • FAX 608/246-7958 • TDD 608/246-7974

Testimony on Behalf of the South Central Library System Presented to the Joint Finance Committee February 13, 2002

My name is Peter Hamon. I am the Director of the South Central Library System, which serves the 51 public libraries and more than 700,000 residents of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood Counties. I am here to ask you to save our public libraries.

Just over 30 years ago the state made a bargain. If local public libraries opened their doors, so that all the unserved citizens of Wisconsin could use them, then the state would create and fund regional public library systems. These systems enabled local libraries, acting together, to share resources and to offer services that none of them could undertake alone. The state agreed to fund public library systems at a level equal to 13% of local library prior year expenditures. The state has never kept this bargain. Funding for Wisconsin's regional library cooperatives reached a high of 12% in the early 1990's, but is now only 9% and falling fast.

My library system, through a combination of automation and delivery services, enables its member libraries to share well over 1.3 million books a year with each other. This represents a savings of more than \$27 million dollars to the public, for books they get to use, but don't have to buy locally.

Demand for this system service is growing by more than 12% per year. The Governor's original budget froze our funding for this biennium, leaving South Central about \$200,000 short of the sums needed to do this growing job. Now the Governor recommends a further cut of \$737,500 to system funding. The South Central share of this additional reduction will leave us more than \$300,000 short of what we need to do our job by the end of the biennium. We have already cut important services. We have no authority to tax to make up the shortfall. We simply have no way to cope.

And bad as the Governor's recommendations are for us at the regional level, they are far worse for our member libraries. We have no illusions. Faced with shared revenue cuts, cities will preserve police, fire, and emergency medical services. Libraries will close. Many of our member libraries have been serving the public for well over a century. This is a sad ending to a long and proud Wisconsin tradition.

Public libraries are always needed, but most of all in hard times. People who have lost their jobs come to us to use our newspapers and the Internet to find new ones. School

children fill our reading rooms to do their homework just as soon as their classes end for the day. To the elderly, we are a last affordable window to the world. The list goes on.

Please choose solutions to this deficit other than by attacking regional public library systems and destroying local public libraries. Closing the immense special interest loopholes in Wisconsin's property and sales taxes would be an excellent start. But above all else, please think of the people who need their libraries, and of the future we can build together. Please save our public libraries.

Thank you for listening.

1327 Fairview
Oshkosh WI 54901

State Senator Brian Burke
Representative John Gard
Members of the Joint Finance Committee

Distinguished Legislators:

I am writing to express my concern over the grave consequences our Governor's proposed budget would have on municipal services, especially libraries. My wife and I very much realize that all levels of government may have to tighten their belts, as we have, in these tough economic times. However the Governor's budget seems to leave state spending virtually untouched while forcing local municipalities to take drastic cuts. We have heard several state and local officials describe libraries as "unessential services" that may need to be cut to save police and fire. I would like to say, with all due respect, that this is nonsense. Libraries are an essential service. They are a vital part of our communities and our educational system

The Governor's budget proposal hurts libraries in three ways.

- ✓ It reduces library system funding, meaning reduced services to public libraries
- ✓ It eliminates shared revenues to counties, reducing financial support to municipal libraries that serve rural residents.
- ✓ It eliminates shared revenues to municipalities, which will probably lead to budget cuts.

In times when the economy is not doing well libraries are more important than ever. People tend to cut back on discretionary spending and use the library's services instead of purchasing educational and recreational books, magazines, etc.

Libraries are important for people looking for jobs or upgrading their skills. With their print and internet resources libraries are often the first place people come to search for new jobs. Experts say that workers now change employers, and sometimes even their type of work, every 5 – 7 years rather than staying with the same employer all their working life. Public libraries are a valuable part of many people's efforts to train themselves for new jobs.

A strong library is an economic asset for the community. Businesses looking for new locations take into account a whole series of "quality of life" services. Libraries are one of the things they consider.

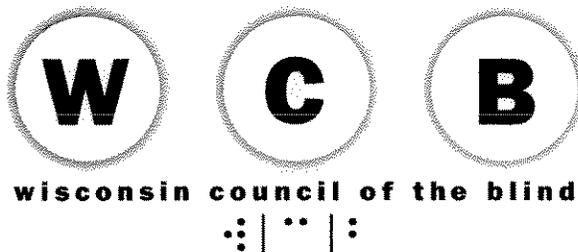
Libraries are a strong partner in education. Students at all levels, elementary through college, use public libraries as supplements to their school libraries.

Libraries and library systems have been leaders in cooperation. The Kettl Commission recommends that local governments cooperate in providing services. Libraries and library systems have been leaders in cooperation and consolidation of services and could be used as examples of how well this can work. Systems coordinate deliveries between libraries, shared online catalogs and circulation systems, interlibrary loan services, and provide training and support of all kinds.

In 1822 James Madison wrote: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives." His words are more true today than ever before. Too much information is as bad as too little and in what has been termed an "information age" we find ourselves swimming in, and sometimes drowning in, information. Information professionals are needed to help people locate sources of information, to help sift the useful from the irrelevant, and to help judge the accuracy and biases of what is found. Librarians are those people.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this. Please do not sacrifice one of our most vital and cherished institutions in favor of penurious fiscal policy. We shouldn't have to sacrifice education and our quality of life in order to maintain public safety.

Sincerely,
Ken and Vicky Hall



February 2002

My Dear Friends,

I write this personal and important letter to you today because of a very sudden and major challenge confronting the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Please give your time and attention to this extremely serious issue.

The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a state treasure that could soon be lost. In his budget message to the Wisconsin Legislature on January 22, Governor Scott McCallum announced that, because of his administration's \$1.1 billion deficit, many state programs will have to be cut or eventually eliminated. In his message, the Governor ordered budget cuts to our Library — cuts that will have many unfortunate ramifications for all of us. This will mean needed staff will not be hired; program and service delays will be greatly increased.

I know all of you are familiar with the wonderful programs and services provided by our Library. It is a financial success for our state because the City of Milwaukee provides the space at no cost, and the Library of Congress supplies all the books and other materials we use. The State of Wisconsin provides, through its budget, a library contract for the day-to-day operations and staff. In response to a January 30 question from a *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* reporter regarding the impact of the Governor's budget on the City of Milwaukee, the mayor stated, "I'm not saying this to be alarmist, but I think the library closes. All branches."

The Legislature will have to vote on his plan this spring. We are sincerely asking for your help in soundly defeating Governor McCallum's poorly thought out budgetary conclusions.

Over the next several weeks, the various committees of the Legislature will be reviewing the Governor's proposals and here is where we need your help. Please write — and I stress write — your local legislators today. Tell them how much the Library means to you and what an efficient and economical service it is. The letter you write can make all the difference in the world as to whether this program continues or dies. Personal letters carry more weight than calls or emails in the Legislative process. If you need help with a letter, call our office. We will put you in touch with one of our Council members from your area. We also have a detailed budget memo available upon request.

We have all faced many personal challenges in our lives. We continue to work for a better tomorrow. We need to keep this Library service for all those who will face similar challenges in the future. We need your help and support. I hope I can count on you.

Very truly yours,

Virginia DeBlaey, President
Wisconsin Council of the Blind

Joint Finance Committee
February 13, 2002
Sam Carmen
Executive Director
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association

Good morning. The number one issue on the minds of the public when asked about how government can help is, public education. For years, policy makers have worked at reforming k-12 education in a variety of ways, sometimes including professional educators, sometimes not. Over the past few years we have all worked hard at defining a few focused issues we could build a true reform movement around. They are, advancing early childhood education, greater emphasis on reducing class-size and the need to have schools, families and communities woven together so that we could put children at the center of what's going on in education. And, we have done it at a time when the challenges for resources have gotten more difficult each year.

In Milwaukee, of course, we face the challenges brought on by an urban environment, including concentrations of poverty, a struggle to maintain infrastructure, recruit and retain qualified caring educators, and the challenges of a tenuous tax base to raise property taxes to fund public services including the schools. But there is a commitment. Every day thousands of educators and tens of thousands of children show up. There is a commitment because so many diverse interests are coming together in our Milwaukee Partnership Academy to tackle the big challenge. We are at a critical point in the future of education in Milwaukee. The need for your commitment to k-16 education cannot be overstated.

We need funding that maintains the efforts to reduce class sizes through the SAGE program. It works. We need funding to have children enrolled in 4 years old kindergarten, it works. We need community learning centers, before and after school programs and opportunities for meaningful parental involvement. They work.

Most importantly, we need qualified, well-paid, caring and committed teachers and administrators. There is no substitute for high quality educators. The research is clear. It matters.

Education is an economic development issue. Our city, a strong and vibrant Milwaukee, is the engine for the economic vitality of Wisconsin. A commitment to the city and our schools is an investment in the economic growth and future success of our state.

Thank you for your attention

2/12/02

Dear Joint Finance committee,

My name is Richard and I am homeschooled.

I go to the library at least once a week.

The librarians are very nice.

I heard that you are going to cut the amount of money the library gets.

I do not like the sound of that because the libraries are more important than other things.

Richard L Meane age 9

3433 Richard Street
Madison, WI 53714

February 13, 2002

Joint Finance Committee
Wisconsin State Legislature
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee,

I have come to your hearing today to let you know that the budget cuts to state funds for local libraries is unacceptable to me, and I think, to thousands of other citizens.

It is always a cheap shot to pare the library budget--the action appears to have no political cost.

Therefore it can only be a measure of your stature as wise custodians how you treat the libraries. That measure is cast into doubt in the governor's budget. The allocation to libraries cries out for your intervention.

Sincerely,



Jane Eiseley



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Testimony of Willie Jude
Deputy Superintendent, Milwaukee Public Schools

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Testimony in Support of Preserving Education Funding
In Budget Reform Bill

February 13, 2002
Madison, WI

Thank you Chairmans Gard and Burke and committee members.

I am Willie Jude, Deputy Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools and I am here today with Sam Carmen, President of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association, and Tim Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce. We are here together today to ensure that K-12 education continues to be a priority as these difficult budget deliberations continue.

While we each have unique missions within the Milwaukee community, we each recognize that a strong education system is critical to the economic success of our cities and state. Likewise, the success of our students, parents, and teachers depends on support from the larger community, and we are working together in unprecedented ways to ensure that our children have every opportunity to succeed. It is for this reason that the current budget situation is so difficult,

because we are faced with it at the same time that we are working to expand critical partnerships between our schools and cities.

However, we cannot tolerate some of the alternatives that have been proposed, such as freezing education aid at current levels or imposing across the board cuts that would include education spending. It is disingenuous to claim that K-12 education has been spared from budget cuts. School districts have been forced to deal with state imposed structural deficits since 1993 when revenue caps were imposed. As a result, MPS has been forced to make cuts averaging \$25 million annually over the past 4 years. We continue to have to find ways to decrease programs as our allowable revenues continue to grow at slower rates than our costs.

In spite of these cuts, MPS has continued to offer our parents and students an array of high quality education programs. MPS continues to work to target our resources toward programs that demonstrate that they can improve academic outcomes and help us to reach our critical goal of getting every child on grade level in reading, writing, and math.

Freezing state education aid at current levels would require MPS to cut an additional \$9 million in programs, beyond the \$30 million structural deficit we anticipate for the upcoming school year, this equates to over 500 teachers. The across the board cut would result in an even greater additional impact on our school communities, roughly \$37 million. Such cuts would undermine our efforts to work together to improve our education system.

Providing a sound education is one of the primary responsibilities of the State. We call upon this committee to meet this responsibility to ensure that all children have an opportunity to succeed.

**Testimony in favor
of maintaining the current funding level
for the
Wisconsin Regional Library for the
Blind & Physically Handicapped**

**Submitted to
Rep. John Gard, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance**

Emil Carl Stubenvoll, 04:16 PM 2/9/02 -, Assembly Bill 1, January, 2002

Reply-To: "Emil Carl Stubenvoll V" <emil@stubenvoll-v.com>
From: "Emil Carl Stubenvoll V" <emil@stubenvoll-v.com>
To: <pen@scls.lib.wi.us>
Subject: Assembly Bill 1, January, 2002 Special Session
Date: Sat, 9 Feb 2002 16:16:11 -0600
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2600.0000
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2600.0000

Dear Paul Nelson

Please take the below letter with you to the Joint Finance Committee hearing on my behalf.

Thank You for your help

Dear Joint Finance Committee:

I am writing to inform you of the importance of the Talking Book Service and why the budget should not be cut. First, I feel it is best to let you know why I use the service. I am a visually impaired person. I have difficulty in reading most print books. I used to Talking Book Service for recreational, professional, and educational purposes. As you can see, I used the service often.

Any decrease in this service would significantly limit my ability to succeed. The reason for this is that it would be more difficult to find books, magazines, and other reading materials that I can access through the Talking Book Service now.

I felt I needed to write this letter so I would be heard and to help you understand the importance of this service to the blind community. I hope through this letter you will see the consequences of a budget cut, not only on my personal life, but the lives of the people who are also using this service. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely:

Emil C. Stubenvoll

991 7th Street #C

Menasha, WI 54952

Emil Carl Stubenvoll V
991 7th Street, Unit C
Menasha, WI 54952
(920) 277-3993
emil@stubenvoll-v.com
<http://www.stubenvoll-v.com>

TECH LAB, 12:56 PM 2/9/02 -, Library For The Blind

X-Sender: BADGERLAB@MAIL.MILWPC.COM
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.1 (32)
Date: Sat, 09 Feb 2002 12:56:26 -0600
To: pen@scls.lib.wi.us
From: TECH LAB <BADGERLAB@BADGERASSOC.ORG>
Subject: Library For The Blind

Please reconsider the proposed budget cut of funds to the Library for the Blind. The funds are important for the development of visually impaired people who really need this type of financial assistance.

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Version: 6.0.323 / Virus Database: 180 - Release Date: 2/8/02

Tech lab, 12:42 PM 2/9/02 -, blind library cuts in budget

X-Sender: badgerlab@mail.milwpc.com
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.1 (32)
Date: Sat, 09 Feb 2002 12:42:10 -0600
To: pen@scls.lib.wi.us
From: Tech lab <badgerlab@badgerassoc.org>
Subject: blind library cuts in budget

As a father of a blind child who uses library texts that are created for blind persons I would find it most distressing to believe that you our Governor would even think of considering taking away any funds from this program or any other that help. My blind daughter uses these forms of learning materials for understanding and growing If you take away this from her I would have question my reasons for having you in office. I hereby request that you leave in the budget anything that will keep the Library for the Blind fully funded and find some other place to cut your budget maybe you could start with every elected official that seem to vote themselves a raise everytime never taking into account of what the voters really think.

Respectfully,

Michael F. Van Plew

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Version: 6.0.323 / Virus Database: 180 - Release Date: 2/8/02

Tech lab, 12:22 PM 2/9/02 -, library importance

X-Sender: badgerlab@mail.milwpc.com
X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Light Version 3.0.1 (32)
Date: Sat, 09 Feb 2002 12:22:44 -0600
To: pen@scls.lib.wi.us
From: Tech lab <badgerlab@badgerassoc.org>
Subject: library importance

I am Stephen Nastoff. I live in Brookfield, Wi. my 11 year old daughter is an avid user of braille books provided by the library. Don't cut a very important services, that will allow my daughter to become a fully intigrated citizen, working adult, and productive person.

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Jennifer Wenzel, 11:38 AM 2/10/02 , proposed budget cut

X-Originating-IP: [63.29.45.160]
From: "Jennifer Wenzel" <jdrwenzel@msn.com>
To: <pen@scls.lib.wi.us>
Subject: proposed budget cut
Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2002 11:38:02 -0600
X-Mailer: MSN Explorer 7.00.0021.1800
X-OriginalArrivalTime: 10 Feb 2002 17:29:33.0584 (UTC) FILETIME=[8118D900:01C1B258]

To Whom it may Concern:

My Name is Jennifer Wenzel. I am a blind mother of two small sons currently living in Portage, WI. The talking book library has played a large role in my life from the time I was a child. I grew up in Watertown, and I loved to receive taped books in the mail. I also got books on records and in Braille. I was always an avid reader, and although my favorite way to read was with Braille, I loved to listen to a talking book before bed. I also loved the talking books because they were often more current, so they gave me a great way to read what all my friends were reading. I am now a busy mother, and although I still love reading Braille, I don't often have time. Talking books give me a way to read and still do my daily housework. They also keep me informed of current trends and events because the most recent books are usually available in talking form first.

The library for the blind provides invaluable services to blind people young and old. Drastic changes in these services, which would be warranted by the budget cuts now being proposed would be very harmful. School students use talking books for research. Homemakers use them for entertainment, recipes, and stress relief. Senior citizens who lose the ability to read print rely on them for the enjoyment and information they used to gain from print books. The importance of this service cannot be underestimated. Such an important service should not be changed or cut.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wenzel
515 School Rd.
Portage, WI
(608) 7450884

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Peter & Marijana Ja, 09:12 AM 2/7/02 -, Library for the Blind & Physic

From: "Peter & Marijana Jakopec" <slovenca@maqs.net>
To: "Paul Nelson" <pen@scls.lib.wi.us>
Subject: Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
Date: Thu, 7 Feb 2002 09:12:26 -0600
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2505.0000
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V6.00.2505.0000

Mr. Nelson

It has come to my attention that there is a proposed budget cut pending for the LBPH. As a customer of LBPH, I am very concerned.

The last few years I have not been able to read books. I have always enjoyed reading and was greatly distressed that I could no longer enjoy books. LBPH has been a blessing for me and for many other persons in my situation. The staff has come to know what my tastes are in books and keep me supplied with ample materials. I am always looking forward to the new items they send out to me.

Please, do not take away or downsize our link to educational and entertaining materials. For many of us, it is the only means by which we can "read" novels or extend our knowledge.

Please reconsider the budget cuts.

I am very grateful to have such a wonderful service as LBPH available to me and I know of others who are as well. We all hope that there will be no change in our wonderful library. Please help us keep our LBPH.

Respectfully
Marija A Jakopec

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Version: 6.0.320 / Virus Database: 179 - Release Date: 1/30/02

Julie Vogt, 09:21 PM 2/6/02 -, Importance of Regional Library

From: "Julie Vogt" <julvogt@presenter.com>
To: <pen@scls.lib.wi.us>
Subject: Importance of Regional Library
Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 21:21:49 -0600
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.50.4133.2400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.50.4133.2400

Regional libraries and Braille and Talking Book programs are important to me as a blind person. I like to read mostly in Braille, but talking books are great, too.

Right now I have a lot on my plate and my books are overdue, but I like to read at special times when there is a lot of down time for me. I have read L.B.J. Memoirs, books about Wisconsin folklore, and, being five years new to this state, I have enjoyed reading some history of the Wisconsin books I've had also.

Marcia at the library goes out of her way for me, telling me about books for musicians that are out, but not in my acceptable reading mode, which we musicians really need more of.

If we didn't get to read, a great facet of life would be missing, because it's possible to learn so much from a book. Right now I'm reading about Frank Lloyd Wright.

I hope there will always be books to read for blind people who would like to read, not just in Wisconsin, but everywhere. Libraries and books are not a baby-sitting service for us blind people. They are an education.

My name is Julie Vogt. I live at 2620 Tower Avenue, #6, Superior, WI 54880.

Thank you for considering my email.

Julie Vogt or julvogt@presenter.com

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Version: 6.0.320 / Virus Database: 179 - Release Date: 1/30/02

Joseph Brhel, 11:47 PM 2/6/02 -, Budget cuts

X-WebTV-Signature: 1

ETAtAhr5sUx8vIu4FDGFEaH2M7IcGj1kkQIVAIer4IE51fBYccsmCxvhKw1ADKOv

From: brhel@webtv.net (Joseph Brhel)

Date: Wed, 6 Feb 2002 23:47:09 -0600 (CST)

To: pen@scls.lib.wi.us

Subject: Budget cuts

Dear Paul---I have becom so accustomd
to ordering Talking Books and having
them arrive in short order, via e-mail,
that if budget cuts take place, and I have
to WAIT, for ANY reason-----it'll be MOST
distressing!! All dramatics aside, I have
macular degeneration in both eyes and
can no longer read book print--this was
one of the hardest things to accept as I
have always been a voracious reader--
I'm 71 yrs. old, sharp as a tack, and not
about ready to stand back and be quiet
about this! I think Gov. McCallum needs
to know there are a whole lot of us "Old
Codgers" out here who WILL be heard!
Gratefully, Mary Ann Brhel

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Joint Finance Committee:

I am writing this on behalf of the 45 blind and visually impaired members of the Lakeshore Visually Impaired Support Group which includes people from Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. I cannot speak for the members of the other 65 visually impaired support groups in Wisconsin nor for the physically handicapped residents who use the Regional Library, but I suspect that they, too, would share our feelings.

We are writing to express our opposition to Governor McCallum's Budget Repair Bill, which is slated to cut a significant portion of funding for the Wisconsin Regional Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The library service experienced no increase in funding during the last biennium, and the library has already absorbed a 5% cut at the start of the 2002/03 budget cycle.

We wish to re-iterate that the Wisconsin Regional Library Service provides good value regarding the use of state dollars. All library materials are provided by the Library of Congress. In addition, the Milwaukee Public Library houses the Wisconsin Regional Library at no cost to the state of Wisconsin. Therefore, all state tax dollars that support this service go specifically to direct service delivery to its increasing number of library patrons.

The Wisconsin Regional Library Service is an extremely important part of the lives of Wisconsin's citizens who are blind or visually impaired. The majority of library patrons are senior citizens. Most library users have no other option for recreational or informational reading materials. Over 13,500 individuals currently request talking books or magazines, which are sent to them through the mail. This number continues to increase as more individuals experience age-related visual impairment.

The Wisconsin Regional Library Service keeps people feeling connected, and contributes greatly to quality of life for those of us who rely on prompt, continuous service to fulfill our desire for books and current magazines. Any reduction in service resulting from Governor McCallum's proposed budget cuts will be deeply felt by those of us whose blindness prohibits our use of local libraries. We are certain that the majority of blind people would agree with us when we say that we would be lost without our library! Consequently, we oppose any budget proposals that would result in a diminution of service to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

The library service has had to cut staff positions because of recent budget cuts. More cuts could reduce the staff even more. It would be a shame to have all those materials, a place to house them but no one to service the blind and physically handicapped. Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,
Bruce Parkinson
President
Lakeshore Visually Impaired Support Group

Rhonda Staats, 04:23 PM 2/12/02 , Talking Books

From: "Rhonda Staats" <rhonda@fflax.net>
To: <pen@scls.lib.wi.us>
Subject: Talking Books
Date: Tue, 12 Feb 2002 16:23:52 -0800
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V5.00.2615.200

Talking books keep me feeling alive and connected. How else would I be able to read the books I choose to read, as well as take them with me wherever I go? You don't have the portability and flexibility with a computer and scanner. Also, the information and assistance I receive when calling the library is unmatched. Library staff go above and beyond what is usually termed good customer service to answer questions or find materials.

Kind Regards,

Rhonda Staats

E-Mail: rhonda@fflax.net

Phone: (608) 782-1534

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Version: 6.0.323 / Virus Database: 180 - Release Date: 2/8/02



Racine Unified School District

2220 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin 53404-2597

February 13, 2002

Good morning! My name is Bill Schalk and I am president of the RUSD. My message is simple: The Racine Unified Board of Education is respectfully requesting that the state budget deficit be addressed without a freeze/or reduction of state aids and that two-thirds school funding and the normal increase in the revenue limit for the 2002-2003 school year be maintained.

Racine Unified is the 3rd largest district in the state. Unified serves 21,000 students of which 3,360 or 16% are in the special education category. The state average is 12.5%. The percentage of district students eligible for free or reduced lunch is 34.9%. Every budget cut is devastating to us and many other districts. While a cat may have nine lives, it is unlikely that districts throughout the state can survive that many budget cuts and fulfill its fundamental obligation to its students, to wit: "An equal opportunity for a sound basic education." This was articulated in the recent Wisconsin Supreme Court school funding case of Vincent vs. Voight.

The court in Vincent also stated:

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 . . . An equal opportunity for a

(2)

sound basic education acknowledges that students and districts are not fungible and takes into account districts with disproportionate numbers of disabled students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with limited English language skills. So long as the legislature is providing sufficient resources so that school districts offer students the equal opportunity for a sound basic education as required by the constitution, the state school finance system will pass constitutional muster.

The present school finance system needs work, but the legislature does not need to work over the school districts again in order to achieve a budget adjustment.

During the last seven years, Racine Unified has been forced to reduce its budget by more than \$23 million because of (1) the gap between state imposed spending caps and the required cost increases, ie, QEO, and (2) reimbursement rate reductions in state aid for special education. These reductions have forced the District to reduce or eliminate educational programs and services to its students.

For the 2002-2003 school year, our District has a \$1.2 million projected budget deficit. If the senate driven Blueprint for Fiscal Recovery and Property Tax Relief plan is adopted, then Racine Unified's deficit would increase to approximately \$6 million. This would result in substantial reductions in educational programs and services to the children in our District.

One could argue that if that were to occur, the legislature has not provided sufficient resources so that school

(3)

districts can offer students the equal opportunity for a sound basic education as articulated in Vincent v. Voight. That is a legacy that no one wants to see happen.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Schalk".

William H. Schalk
President

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phone number and e-mail	mailing address
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Alyssa Whitney, Treasurer.

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