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TESTIMONY TO THE
WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY AND SENATE

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
"HIGHER EDUCATION"

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

WILLIAM J. MALLERIS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - WHITEWATER
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AND

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APRIL 11, 2001

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE - PUBLIC HEARING**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS

The Honorable Chairmen and Honorable Members of the Joint Finance Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify before this Committee concerning Economic Stimulus Proposal in Expanding the Technology Workforce through the University System and the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and earned my Bachelor's of Business Administration Degree in 1978. I have been a member of the UWW Alumni Board of Directors for three years volunteering my time assisting the educational institution which tremendously assisted myself in business and to empower persons with disabilities attain independence in the community.

I would like this opportunity to thank the Wisconsin Legislature for its support in the past of the University System and UW - Whitewater. The University of Wisconsin - Whitewater has an outstanding reputation as a business school and has an excellent reputation for providing access for students with disabilities.

The dollars have been well spent in these areas and I am one of the successes in business and having a disability. I am a developer of integrated accessible housing and own my own business. UW-Whitewater has given me the business skills, people skills, and empowerment with a disability to pursue my business career and assist others with disabilities.

**PAGE 2 - TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS**

In reviewing the current economic downturn we need to stimulate the economy and the Economic Stimulus Proposal can have a significant impact. Employers need technologically skilled workers and the University System is where they may be found. The state needs to invest money to the University System in the area of information technology. A recent study by UW-Whitewater indicates that nationally and statewide the output of university information technology programs will only satisfy about one-third of the nation's demand for employees in the information technology field over the next decade.

It is understandable that student fees should provide some of the funding for new UW initiatives, however we should not rely entirely on tuition increases for these new programs. State dollars (GPR) spent to support the increase in Information Technology majors will be an investment in the state's economy.

The University of Wisconsin - Whitewater entire request for additional funding is towards the Expanding the Technology Workforce areas. All of the programs for which additional information technology funding is requested are in existence and are high demand programs.

The Internet MBA program provides opportunities for location locked individuals who are already working in various business industries to continue their education.

**PAGE 3 - TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS**

In considering potential students, people with disabilities due to varying circumstances and level of disability are location locked. As a result, technology oriented majors open the doors for persons with disabilities to pursue a higher education who otherwise be unable to achieve.

As stated, I am a Developer of integrated accessible housing and on July 5, 1996 completed construction of Maple Court Apartments in Naperville, Illinois which is a 48 unit development providing 20 barrier free affordable units for persons with disabilities integrated with 28 fair market units primarily for persons without disabilities. Maple Court has become a national and international model for the integration of accessible housing, but also economic integration where the income range is from \$400/month in a barrier free affordable unit to \$250,000 annually in a fair market unit.

National statistics indicate unemployment of persons with disabilities is at 80%. Maple Court has attained 65% employment amongst those with disabilities, therefore when accessibility has been created at home it provides the base necessary for employment goals to be reached by those of us with disabilities.

As a business owner I have used the education attained at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and involvement in the disability and independent living movement to create much needed accessible housing integrated with regular fair market housing.

**PAGE 4 - TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS**

Those of us with disabilities desire to live with everyone else, however we must have the education and resources to empower ourselves and help others to become empowered. The education I have received from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater has helped me tremendously in accomplishing this goal.

The success of my development has been an example of what other developers may accomplish and as a result I am asked to speak around the country showing developers and the disability community how to achieve the same results.

While the barrier free affordable units go beyond the minimum accessible standards, the fair market units at Maple Court Development encompass the 7 technical requirements under the fair housing act which are easily achievable by developers. The fair market units are appealing to persons without disabilities knowing they can function in their residence if they are temporarily disabled, or when friends or family members with disabilities are visiting.

I have been able to prove that a typical one bedroom apartment at 735 sq feet, two bedroom - one bath apartment at 842 sq feet, and two bedroom - two bath apartment at 956 sq feet can fully meet the 7 technical accessibility requirements under the fair housing amendments act at a very reasonable cost especially during the design phase of new construction.

**PAGE 5 - TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS**

Maple Court Development was 70% full at certificate of occupancy and 100% full 35 days later which includes all the units for persons with and without disabilities. I have proven that when it is built properly meeting the accessibility requirements the units are desired by everyone.

As a developer who just happens to have a disability, I am able to understand several aspects of what those of us with disabilities experience and those of us in the development business experience.

Expanding the Technology Workforce and providing Information Technology opens a large and vast opportunity for persons with disabilities especially with individuals having additional mobility limitations, but have the knowledge, ability, intelligence, drive and commitment to become a viable part of our society. The ability of those of us with disabilities to contribute to our community and economy like everyone else will benefit this entire nation.

On a personal perspective there have been changes in my disability since I graduated from college and in order to enhance my abilities in the business arena this would have to be accomplished through the information technology areas provided by the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.

I hope the Joint Finance Committee will support the Expanding the Technology Workforce through the University System and UW-Whitewater.

**PAGE 6 - TESTIMONY BEFORE THE WISCONSIN JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM J. MALLERIS**

Enclosed for your review are several newspaper articles on my work with integrated accessible housing. Also, Small Business 2000 a series on PBS has aired a television show on my company which has been aired worldwide for two years.

As a person with a disability, I and others in my same situation will hopefully be able to obtain a needed higher education in the information technology areas which will enhance our employment opportunities and business opportunities.

I would like to thank the Honorable Chairmen and Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee to provide this testimony before you.

Respectfully Submitted by:

William J. Malleris
Alumni Board Member
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

and

President
Maple Court Development, Inc.
1135 West Ogden Avenue
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Chicago • Business CRAIN'S

METRO CHICAGO'S BUSINESS AUTHORITY

CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS JUNE 3, 1996

Real Estate

Development • Brokerage • Architecture • Construction

Composite

He's making his dream come true

William J. Malleris hopes to make history with an apartment complex that serves both disabled and mainstream renters.

The 40-year-old Mr. Malleris is developer, general contractor, owner and manager of Maple Court Development in Naperville, a 48-unit complex scheduled to open next month.

The project is 50%-leased, and if it's successful, Mr. Malleris hopes it will be a model or similar initiatives in the Chicago area and nationwide.

"People with disabilities want to be integrated in the community," says the Chicago native, who was diagnosed with a neurological disability at age 4.

He returned to the western suburbs five years ago, after serving as chief executive of a Minnesota non-profit that provided services built housing for the disabled.

The \$4.6-million Naperville project was funded in part with a \$2.6-million loan from

Community Investment Corp. in Chicago, with the balance coming from federal grants awarded by DuPage County and the city of Naperville.

"Bill is one of the most focused people I've ever met," says Phil Smith, chief planner for DuPage County.

Of the 48 apartments, 28 are designed for the general market with rents ranging from \$725 to \$925 a month.

The remaining residences, with rents of \$507 to \$704 a month, are tailored to the disabled. Kitchen cabinets and appliances are lower to accommodate to people in wheelchairs. There are seats in bathroom showers, and door handles are designed to be easy to grip. All residents benefit from 3-foot-wide doors that open automatically.

Says Mr. Malleris, "It's a dream come true."

JUDITH CROWN



Beyond barriers: William J. Malleris developed a Naperville housing complex where disabled tenants live among mainstream renters.

TODD WINTERS



Bill Malleris, the developer of Maple Court Apartments, is the subject of Small Business 2000, a television program that will be aired in cities around the world. Julie Henderson / Staff photographer

Development for disabled draws national attention

By Pucky Zimmerman
STAFF WRITER

In choosing a firm to profile on Small Business 2000, the television program's directors look for one of two things.

They want a company whose founder has a dynamic personality or a business whose product is fascinating.

According to Hattie Bryant, creator and host of Small Business 2000, Naperville entrepreneur Bill Malleris and his company fit both criteria.

"He's an activist. He's on the president's task force for the Americans With Disabilities Act. And he's making a product most people are not familiar with," she said.

Three weeks ago Small Business 2000 came to Naperville to film an episode on Malleris and Maple Court Development Inc., a firm specializing in integrated housing for disabled and abled individuals.

Diagnosed with a muscular disorder at the age of 4, Malleris is confined to a motorized wheelchair — "my scooter," as he calls it.

In 1996, he completed the 48-unit Maple Court apartments on Ogden Avenue, designed with 20 barrier-free units. His most recent project is Windsor Court in Warrenville, which includes eight townhouses. Four of them are barrier-free.

While the apartments promote independence among the disabled, the townhouses go a step further by promoting home ownership for the disabled. Both projects are in full compliance with the ADA, he said. They integrate the disabled residents with neighbors who are not.

It was that sort of entrepreneurial vision that attracted Small Business 2000 to Malleris, said Bryant.

Malleris is passionate about his developments, working 12- to 17-hour days negotiating contracts, securing financing and overseeing construction.

The Maple Court property had been the estate of the Lois Ehrhart, he said. He recalled negotiating the purchase of the five acres with her executor, Elmer Ehrhart, at Rascal's restaurant on Ogden Avenue.

"I saved 19 out of 24 trees on the property. As a developer, I've done things the right way. There was no need to go to the city for variances."

■ Bill Malleris
DEVELOPER
MAPLE COURT APARTMENTS

In building Maple Court, "I saved 19 out of 24 trees on the property," he said. "As a developer, I've done things the right way. There was no need to go to the city for variances."

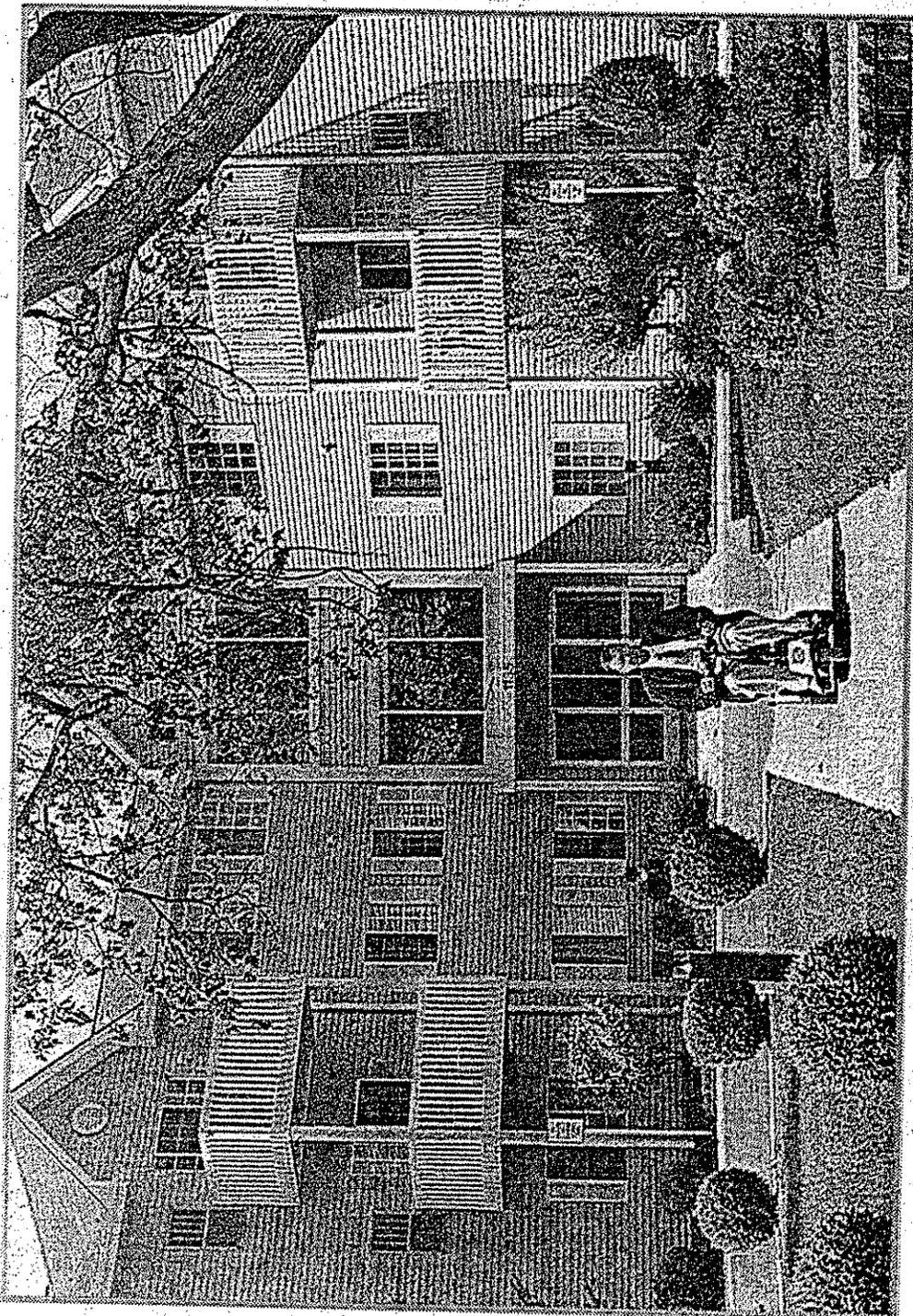
Financing for the complex was a mix of public and private funding, he said. Malleris praised the support his project received from the city of

See Development, Page 54

YEARS Sunday Sun-Times

Chicago Sun-Times

(W)



Developer William J. Maileris at the Maple Court apartments in Naperville. Maple Court includes accessible and adaptable rental units. RICH HENY/SUN-TIMES

WILLIAMS & SON

Developer William J. Malleris at the Maple Court apartments in Naperville. Maple Court includes accessible and adaptable rental units. RICH HEIN/SUN-TIMES

WHEELCHAIR REACH

Developer eliminates design barriers and makes housing accessible to all

BY MARY WITTE

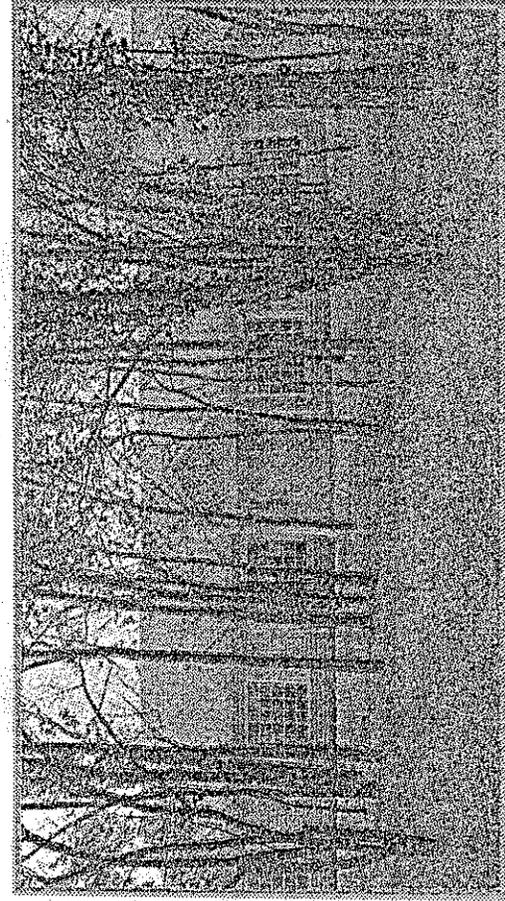
Real estate developer William Malleris is on a quest to eliminate barriers put before people in wheelchairs.

The barriers he wants to eliminate make it difficult to do simple things like get in and out of the shower, hang clothes in a closet or scramble an egg. They are barriers Malleris knows all about.

Confined to a wheelchair, Malleris has for years searched for an apartment or home that would accommodate his needs without major struggle or remodeling. When he couldn't find one, he built his own.

The result is Maple Court, a 48-unit rental building at 1135 W. Ogden Ave. in west suburban Naperville.

But rental units are not his only barrier-free offerings. Malleris has branched out and is building an 8-unit town house develop-



Windsor Court in Warrenville is an 8-unit town-house development designed for accessibility. The 2-bedroom, 2-bath units start in the \$160,000s.

ment, Windsor Court, on the southwest corner of Waverly Ave. and Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

The one-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath units feature attached garages (all with inside wheelchair ramps) and start in the \$160,000s. Construction at Windsor Court is

scheduled for completion this fall, but the project is 50 percent sold.

At Maple Court, the circular driveway takes visitors past decades-old trees and manicured shrubbery to the front door of a three-story, gray-and-white building complete with balconies. There are no outward signs that Maple Court is anything other than a pleasant-looking place to live.

Both Maple Court and Windsor Court are "integrated" buildings. Maple Court contains 20 barrier-free affordable apartments and 28 fair-market regular units that are adaptable. The building also appeals to all ages, and tenants range in age from 20 to 80 and include families and singles.

"That's exactly how it should be," said Malleris. "When developers group so called 'handicapped' apartments on the first floor or make just one entryway accessible with a

Turn to next page

Reach

Continued from Page 1F

ramp or something, that's just segregation."

The \$4.6 million project was built with a combination of private and public funds. Among the restrictions for the public dollars was that some of the units must be rented below market prices for at least 40 years. Malleris said offering affordable rents was part of the plan anyway.

"The majority of people with disabilities can't find jobs, let alone afford their own apartment," Malleris said. Maple Court has 100 percent occupancy rate and there is a waiting list.

At Windsor Court, four of the units are barrier free and four are adaptable.

Malleris designed both of his buildings with doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, bathroom grab bars with steel reinforcements and kitchens where sitting down is the most comfortable position for washing dishes.

Units with sliding-glass doors feature custom design door tracks that don't hinder wheelchair access.

In the kitchens, the elimination of bottom cabinets in the barrier free units makes cooking and clean up easier, as people in wheelchairs can roll under the sink, stovetop and countertops.

Electrical outlets are positioned along the edges of countertops, instead of the wall where

they'd be out of reach. Ovens are mounted on the wall at chair-level.

Bathrooms have custom-positioned grab bars. Wheelchairs can be rolled into the showers. Closets can be easily rolled into.

At Maple Court, rents range from \$507 to \$734 and from \$740 to \$944 a month, the two-tiered structure depends on the number of bedrooms and baths as well as whether the apartment falls under the below market value restriction.

In addition to affordable rents, Maple Court offers walk-in closets, individual laundry facilities and convenient access to shops, restaurants and transportation.

Tenant Mike Fiscella, who lost mobility to multiple sclerosis, said he has found greater independence since moving to Maple Court almost two years ago. "I can wash dishes now, and I love to wash dishes, don't ask me why, but I haven't been able to do it this easy in a long time," he said.

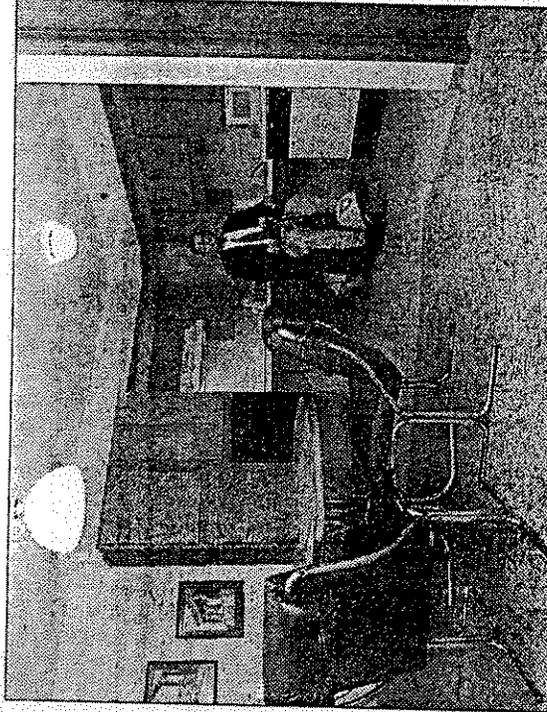
The search for a place to live was difficult for Fiscella because claims of wheelchair accessibility turned out to mean wide doorways.

"What are you supposed to do once you get in the room?" he said.

He eventually learned about Maple Court from a social service organization in DuPage County.

Malleris is angry with developers who don't follow federal fair housing laws when it comes to accommodations for the disabled.

"Maybe it's money, but would it really add to the cost to lower a light switch or raise the electrical outlets or install a grab



William Malleris in his kitchen at Maple Court in Naperville. Bottom cabinets have been eliminated to allow accessibility for wheelchairs.

RICH HEIN, SUN-TIMES

FAIR HOUSING

The Fair Housing Act's handicapped-accessibility rules cover all residential dwellings with four or more units constructed for occupancy after March 13, 1991.

This includes town houses separated by fire walls, apartments and condominiums for-rent and for-sale developments. All units in buildings with elevators, and all ground-floor units in other buildings covered by the law must be accessible.

Key design elements for compliance, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, include wheelchair-accessible entryways, accessible public and common-use area, extra-wide doorways, reinforced bathroom walls to accommodate grab bars and kitchens designed to be used by people with disabilities.

use the bathroom and perhaps join my friends on their balcony. It's really just about being human," said Malleris.

■ Maple Court and Windsor Court, (630) 357-3696.
■ Access Living, (312) 226-5900.

■ *Mary White is a Chicago free-lance writer.*

"Developers don't care because the Justice Department isn't going to take them to trial, so there's really no penalty. If there is one, it's a slap on the wrist," Barrera said.

Ironically, one of the developments targeted for inspection by Access Living was Maple Court.

"When I finally met Bill (Malleris) I had egg on my face because his place is perfect. It's one of a kind," said Barrera.

Malleris says he doesn't want praise. He wants other developers to follow his quest for barrier-free living.

"Even if I was just going out on a visit, I'd still like to be able to

bar or two?" Malleris asked. "I'm living proof that it can be done and with a profit."

Access Living, a Chicago-based resource organization for the disabled, reported a recent inspection of dozens of developments in Cook County found that noncompliance with federal fair housing laws is widespread.

"Unfortunately, there is gross violation, and you don't have to go far to find a new building going up where a disabled person has no chance to physically get past the front door," said Beto Barrera, a housing team leader and education coordinator at Access Living.

Chicago Tribune

Monday, September 9, 1996 50c

Naperville's twist on integration

Apartments cater to the disabled, too

By Ted Gregory
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Down the street from the strip shopping center and sprawling high school campus, another apartment complex has opened in Naperville.

Its name, Maple Court, is vintage suburbia, and it sits just off Ogden Avenue in tasteful, understated gray aluminum siding with white trim. Each of the 48 units, with a dishwasher, a washer and dryer, air conditioning, garbage disposal, even garages with electric door openers, is a sociological laboratory of sorts.

Maple Court, which officially opened last week, is a place where an almost equal mix of disabled and non-disabled residents live in market-rent apart-

That arrangement make Maple Court rare in the state and nation, where most housing for the disabled is set aside and subsidized by the government.

"This is not a segregated world," said Bill Malleris, Maple Court developer, owner, manager, general contractor and resident. He uses a motorized scooter as a consequence of the neuromuscular disorder he was diagnosed with at age 4.

"It's not right," Malleris added. "Should you put all singles in one building or all single parents in one building or all people of one race and one color in one building? People want to be around other people."

Malleris' belief is supported by Maple Court's occupancy. Within a month after its July 5 completion, 96 percent of the units were rented.

Rebecca Ann Yates occupies one of the 20 barrier-free apartments. A native of Arkansas, she came to Illinois in 1974, five years after a car wreck nearly killed her. She suffers from severe degenerative arthritis as a result and, like Malleris, uses a motorized scooter.

For three months in 1987, she was homeless, finally settling into a West Chicago apartment that was cramped, barrier-filled and depressing.

SEE APARTMENTS, PAGE 2

Apartments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After she arrived at Maple Court in April to look over the apartments, she started crying and embraced Malleris. Emotions still overcame her when she talked about her new home.

"I'm a fantastic talker, but to think of the right words to describe this place is... it's awesome," Yates, 56, said. "I just can't believe it. What Bill has done here is absolutely a gift from God."

The divine powers got an assist from Uncle Sam, however. A total of \$2 million of the project's \$4.6 million cost was federal grant money administered by local governments.

Malleris, a native Chicagoan, had worked as a developer on four residential facilities for the disabled in Minnesota, where he also served as chief executive officer of the Center for Independent Living. It is an organization that provides services and housing for people with disabilities.

"I was tired," he said when asked why he left Minnesota after 11 years as CEO of the agency. "It was time to come home, and when I came back, there was no housing and it was the thing I love to do the most."

He obtained an option on the 4.5 acres in 1994 and spent the next year pulling together financing. Construction began in September 1995. A nature enthusiast, Malleris

saved 19 of the 24 mature trees on the site.

Maple Court looks like many suburban apartment complexes, except that the extra width of halls and entrances gives it an airy, bright ambience.

Entry doors to all individual apartments—conventional and barrier-free—are 36 inches wide, to admit scooters and wheelchairs. Inside each apartment, the light switches and thermostats are high to make them easy for seated people to reach.

Shelves are lower and the space under the cooktop allows wheelchair users to reach all four burners. The bathroom features a roll-in shower with a hand-held nozzle.

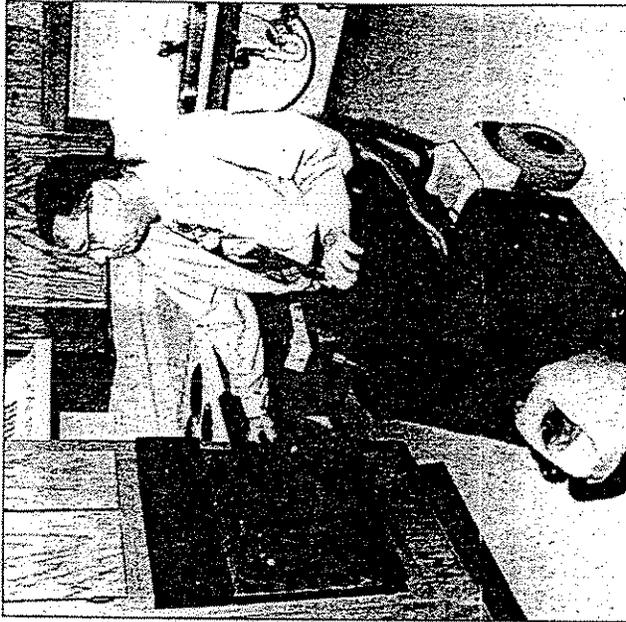
George and Fern Lester, a non-disabled couple, moved to Maple Court in early July after maintenance on their Aurora duplex became too bothersome and the ache in George's knees occurred too often while climbing stairs.

Sharing their apartment building with physically disabled people seems an afterthought to the Lesters.

"They are more impressed with the deer they can see through their back window and the size of the doors, which eased their move dramatically."

"It doesn't bother me," George Lester said. "People are people and everybody has to have some place to live."

Malleris is working on finding



Tribune photo by James Mayo

Maple Court developer Bill Malleris demonstrates accessibility to an oven in the complex, where disabled and non-disabled people live.

more places for people with disabilities. He has financing for a project based on the Maple Court model and is reviewing several parcels in DuPage County for the right spot.

Chicago Tribune

Saturday, September 7, 1996

★ D Chicago Tribune, Saturday, September 7, 1996 Section 1 5

METRO & STATE



Tribune photos by James Mayo

Bill Malleris, the owner, manager and a resident of Maple Court, leaves through an automatic door at the Naperville apartments. . . .

Naperville apartments increase access

20 of 48 units cater to disabled residents

By Ted Gregory
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Maple Court, a Naperville apartment complex billing itself as "a national model for the integration of barrier-free housing," officially opened Friday.

Twenty of the 48 apartments are entirely accessible to physically disabled individuals and feature amenities such as easy-to-use kitchen pantries, wall ovens, accessible cook tops and sink areas, roll-in showers and barrier-free closets. The remaining 28 units are conventional apartments.

Rents on all the units are competitive with similar apartments in the area.

"This is not a handicapped project," said Bill Malleris, owner, developer, manager and a resident of the apartment building. "It's an apartment building,

which, by the way, has 20 barrier-free units."

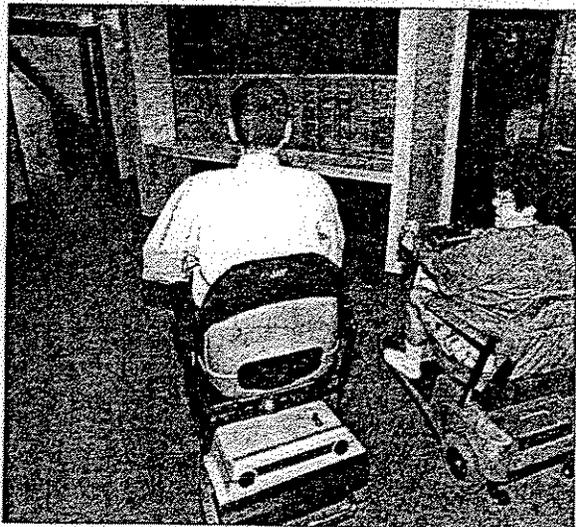
Maple Court, 1135 W. Ogden Ave., is a rarity. Few apartment complexes across the country integrate conventional apartments with barrier-free units and make those apartments available at fair market rents.

Construction on the \$4.6 million project began Sept. 8, 1995.

Demand apparently is strong for projects such as Maple Court.

Within a month of the complex's July 5 completion, 96 percent of the units were leased. As of Friday, all but two of the units—both conventional design—were rented.

Malleris said he not only was concerned with building apartments accessible for the disabled, but he also wanted to preserve as much of the natural surroundings as possible. Construction crews saved 19 of 24 mature trees on the 4.5-acre site.



. . . Malleris and Rebecca Ann Yates visit in the complex, which offers conventional units and barrier-free ones for those with disabilities.

Sunday Sun-Times

\$1.50
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CLLOUDY Pages 2, 87

FEBRUARY 2, 1997

★★★

A Guide
to Houses,
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HOMELIFE

FEBRUARY 2, 1997

SUNDAY

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Chicago Sun-Times

REMOVING BARRIERS

MOVING BEYOND HANDICAPS, BABY BOOMERS OPEN TO DESIGN CHANGES

By LARRY FINLEY
HOMELIFE REPORTER

As the baby boomer generation reluctantly marches into middle age, architects and home builders are beginning to borrow innovations that were once reserved for the handicapped.

The advance guard of the 76 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964 reached the age of 50 last year. Their wants, needs and expendable cash make them a major force in the housing market, just as they were in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

While aging is not necessarily a disability, reduction of mobility and eyesight changes are usually inevitable.

Ground-level entrances, wider doorways, and grab bars in the bathroom are all standards for barrier-free housing, designed for the disabled.

But most changes in new mainstream housing are minimal unless the housing is custom built or modified to fit specific requests. Or unless the changes are mandated by federal law or local ordinance.

Naperville builder William Malleris is on the cutting edge of accessible design. His Maple Court apartments at 1135 Ogden successfully mix 20 barrier-free apartments in a new building with 28 standard designs.

The building filled up quickly after it opened last year and here is a waiting list for both types of housing. The 1- and 2-bedroom barrier-free apartments rent for about \$500 to \$700 a month. The "fair market" apartments are \$725 to \$925.

"My goal is to create an integrated environment, where you have people with and without



PHOTOS BY RICH HEIN/SUN-TIMES; PAGE DESIGN BY NORM SCHAEFER

Builder William Malleris (below) made sure his Maple Court apartment complex in Naperville is wheelchair-friendly.

disabilities. In the past it has been segregated housing. People with disabilities want to be integrated. I do with my own disability," he said.

Malleris has had a walking disability all of his life and now uses an electric scooter.

"During construction, I had four flat tires," he added. "I'm the developer, owner and general contractor. My office is here and I reside here."

Three entrances to his building are at ground level. The other has a gradual ramp. To accom-

modate wheelchairs or scooters, parking spaces are extra wide, as are doors, hallways and elevators. Mailboxes are low.

The apartments have 3-foot-wide doors. Sinks and appliances are lower. All switches, outlets and gauges are visible and reachable.

Bathroom floors are non-skid. Showers are roll-in. All bathroom walls will support grab bars, not just a strip around the shower or toilet.

The "regular" apartments
Turn to Page 3





FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

50 CENTS

Barrier-free housing opens doors for everyone

By Karri E. Christiansen

One year ago, William Malleris shared with a contingency of city and county officials a dream to build the first barrier-free housing development in Naperville. Today, he officially will realize that dream.

Malleris, who is confined to a motorized wheelchair, at noon today will unveil his Maple Court apartment complex, a 48-unit building with 28 regular apartments and 20 barrier-free apartments at 1135 W. Ogden Ave. The barrier-free units were specifically designed to make life easier for disabled tenants.

Malleris said Thursday that he is excited about today's grand opening, in part because all but two of the apartments already are being rented. Malleris also is excited to unveil the project because it is the first of its kind in Naperville and also is serving as a national model for barrier-free housing.

But Malleris said he does not want Maple Court to become known simply as an apartment complex for the disabled.

"This is an apartment building," Malleris said. "It just happens to have some quality barrier-free units."

Malleris is proud of the fact that Maple Court offers housing for those who are disabled and those who are not.

"People have said this is the future," Malleris said. He said he plans to build another barrier-free apartment complex soon, but could not say where just yet.

While the opening of Maple Court is a dream come true for Malleris, the project did not just happen overnight. More than a year's worth of planning and construction went into the project.

Malleris said part of what makes Maple Court special is the "extras" included in the building, like lower light switches and door handles for the disabled, two peepholes in the front door of every apart-



(SUN photo by James C. Svehla)

Developer Bill Malleris shows some of the kitchen features in the barrier-free apartments that will open on Ogden Avenue Friday. The 48-unit complex has 20 units designed to assist disabled tenants.

ment and wider doorways for easier accessibility in all units. Bathrooms have non-slip floors in the washroom of each barrier-free unit, and there are open spaces under counters and vanities.

"People are receiving a lot," said Malleris, who said both he and his mother, Helen, have their own apartments in Maple Court.

And the amenities are not limited to structural matters. Each apartment has a gorgeous view, be it a garden apartment or a balcony unit. Malleris said he took extra care to make sure many of the old trees on the

parcel remained on the lot after construction.

Each apartment has an open design; there are no confined spaces except the washroom. Each apartment has a closet large enough to accommodate a wheelchair and each apartment has extra-wide doorways to ensure smooth movement from one room to another.

Malleris said he could have built a complex that had just the basics for barrier-free housing — that would have been adequate for the disabled — but that, he said, would have "robbed" not just those who live

See BARRIERS on Page 15

the barrier-free units have been rented, but a waiting list is being started for those who are interested.

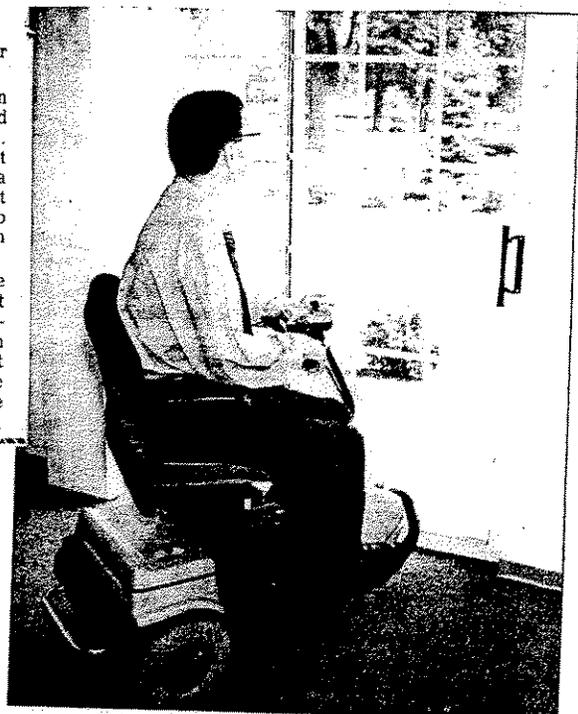
Rents for the barrier-free units range from \$507 to \$704 per month, while rents for "regular" or fair market apartments begin at \$725 per month.

Anyone interested in the development may call Malleris at Maple Court at (630) 357-3696.

Continued from Page 3
in Maple Court, but the community as well.

"This is an example of what can be done with good planning," Malleris said. "Developers have a responsibility to the community. I think we did that."

The project, which cost about \$4.5 million, was funded primarily by grants, Malleris said all



(SUN photo by Pat Van Doren)

Maple Court developer Bill Malleris takes in the view from the patio door of his barrier-free apartment.



Apartment inaccessibility

Many multifamily developers don't provide wheelchair access

By ANNE SCHMITT
Daily Herald Business Writer

William Malleris knows what it's like to have a disability and be apartment hunting.

The owner of Maple Court Development Inc. in Naperville, he gets around in a motorized scooter because of a neuromuscular disability. He had trouble finding an apartment when he returned to the area a couple of years ago.

So the builder was happy to learn that the U.S. Justice Department is cracking down on developers who ignore accessibility requirements designed to make more apartments, condominiums and town houses available to people like him.

"I was pleased because this is going to create more awareness and make people do it," Malleris said. "Builders having a sincere commitment will result in more housing stock for people with disabilities."

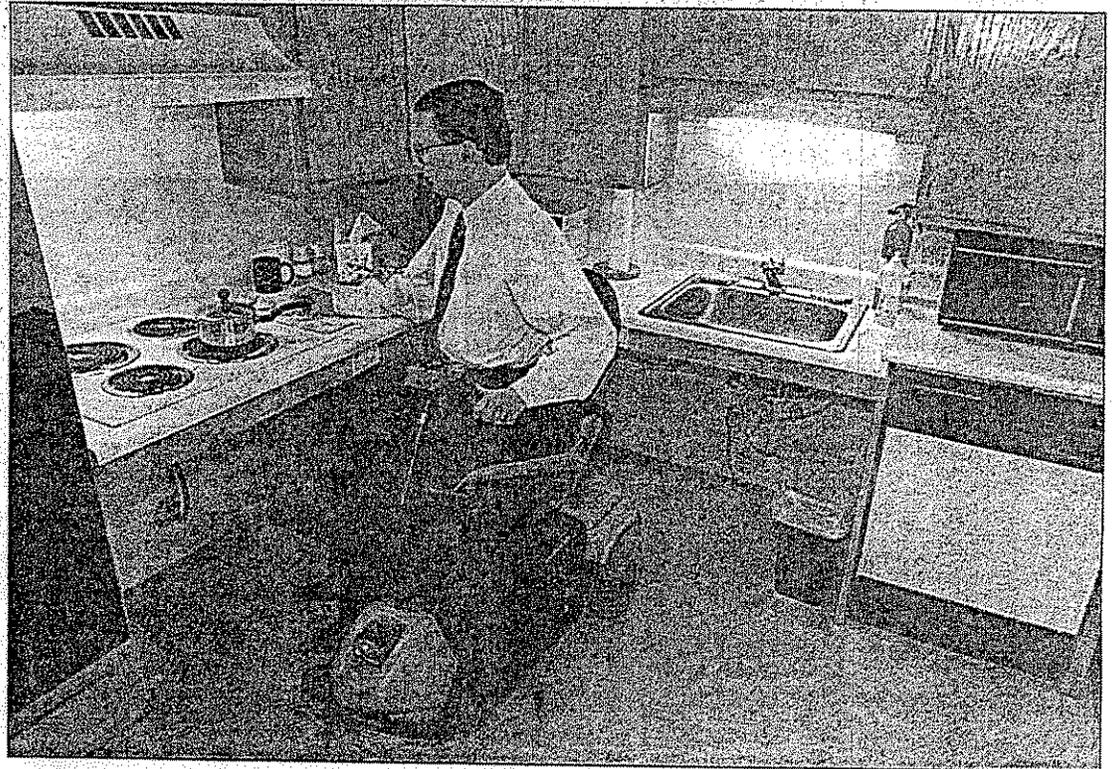
The Justice Department is negotiating with more than two dozen builders in the Chicago area about alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act requirements governing multifamily housing. Developers could be fined as part of out-of-court settlements. Those that don't settle could be sued by the government in federal court.

The crackdown in Chicago could be just the beginning of a nationwide enforcement effort.

Bob Johnston, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago, said local developers were caught unaware concerning the accessibility guidelines.

"Initially, we thought the builders knew about this and they may have made a business decision not to do it. In talking with them, we found that, in most every instance, the builders didn't know about it. And the architects weren't designing for it," Johnston said. "We think there are an awful lot of people who are going to be fined who did not act in bad faith."

In response to the federal inves-



William J. Malleris, president of Maple Court Development Inc. in Naperville, uses the stove in his barrier-free apartment, which goes beyond federal accessibility requirements for multifamily housing.

Daily Herald Photo/Paul Michna

tigation, the association started an educational campaign for its members. It now issues frequent written reminders and soon it will make available a videotape about the guidelines.

Though he questions how developers could have been caught off guard, Alberto Barrera of Chicago-based Access Living, which assisted in the investigation, hopes the Justice Department action will result in more housing being available for people with disabilities.

"We're hoping 1997 is going to be a wake-up call for developers," Barrera said.

The multifamily housing accessibility guidelines have been on the books since 1988, when President Reagan signed the Fair Housing Act amendments into

Overcoming barriers

Fair Housing Act amendments signed by President Reagan in 1988 extended civil rights protections to people with disabilities. It aimed to end segregation of housing available for people with handicaps.

The act establishes seven design standards for multifamily housing ready for occupancy after March 31, 1991.

- At least one building entrance must be on an accessible route.
- All public and common areas must be accessible.
- All doors must be wide enough for wheelchairs to pass.
- All ground floor units and floors served by elevators must have:
 - An accessible route into and out of the unit.
 - Accessible light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls.
 - Reinforcements in bathroom walls to allow grab bars to be installed around toilet, tub and shower if needed.
 - Kitchens and bathrooms configured so a person using a wheelchair can maneuver.



Sources: Center for Accessible Housing; North Carolina State University; Daily Herald Graphic

THE NAPERVILLE SUN

Page 8 • The Naperville Sun Sunday, September 10, 1995

Barrier-free project a be model for the future

By Karri E. Christiansen

Friday was an emotional day for William Malleris, as he inched closer to realizing his dream of creating barrier-free housing for the disabled.

Malleris, developer of the Maple Court Apartments that will be located at 1135 W. Ogden Ave. in Naperville, led a 90-minute ground breaking ceremony at the site of a 48-unit apartment building that eventually will become home to at least 20 disabled residents.

During the ceremony Malleris, who is confined to a wheelchair, said the project could not have come to fruition if it weren't for the "total commitment" expressed by the City of Naperville and DuPage County's Community Development Committee and Housing Authority.

"When you have that belief that people with disabilities need to be part of the community, you need total commitment," Malleris told a crowd of about 75 people. "We were looking toward the future for barrier-free housing. Everybody has been talking about the need for it. This initiative is that future."

Malleris said he hopes the apartment building will be used as a national model for barrier-free housing. The \$4,459,250 structure, funded primarily by grants, will feature automatic entry doors, wider-than-normal doorways, lowered light switches, raised electrical outlets, specially-designed bathrooms and other amenities.

While 20 of the 48 units in the building will be designed for the disabled and rented on a sliding scale that is based on income, the remaining 28 will be designed for those without handicaps and will be rented at fair market value.

City and county officials lauded the project and said they are welcoming its construction.



(SUN photo by Jo Lundeen)

Mayor George Pradel shares his hard hat with Nico Malleris, nephew of developer Bill Malleris, at the Maple Court Development for barrier-free living. Watching are Bill Malleris (in motorized wheel chair) and his mother Helen.

"The disabled community has been saying for years that this model is what they've been look-

ing for," said Phil Smith, of the DuPage County Development
See MALLERIS on Page 11

Chicago Tribune

Friday, September 8, 1995

Chicago Tribune

Metro DuPage

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995



Tribune photo by John Dziekan

William Malleris is developing Maple Court in Naperville as

New housing opens doors for disabled

By Courtenay Edelhart
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When apartment building developer William Malleris talks about the need for accessible housing, he does so with an anger and passion born of personal experience.

Upon returning from Minnesota, where he lived and worked for four years, it took him months to find the apartment he ultimately settled on in Wheaton.

"When I asked about accessible housing, people just laughed," he said. "That sounds mean, but it's true. There's hardly any housing available, and when you do find it, it's all lumped together in one place. We're tired of being segregated in disabled warehouses."

It's a frustration Malleris has endured most of his life. Diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder at the age of 4, he gets around on a motorized scooter.

"But everything happens for a reason," he said. "And this must be the reason."

Maple Court, the dream project he hopes will become a national model for disabled housing. Ground-breaking ceremonies are at noon Friday at 1135 W. Ogden Ave. in Naperville.

What makes Maple Court special, he said, is that it will integrate disabled residents with the public.

"It's always been a goal of the disabled community to get more integrated-accessible housing, but nobody was doing it," he said. "Well, when you believe in that dream, you go after it."

Malleris had experience developing apartments in Minnesota, and decided to apply that knowledge to Maple Court.

Plans for the development, set to open next spring, call for 48 units to be built on 4.5 acres. Of those, 28 will be rented at fair market value. The remaining 20 units will be "barrier free" and leased to the disabled on a sliding scale, based on income.

Advocates for the disabled

Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

couldn't be more pleased.

"It's beautiful and unusual to see," said Beto Barrero, housing coordinator for the Chicago nonprofit group Access Living. "Throughout history, our society has had the mentality that people with disabilities belong in segregated facilities, whether it's group homes or institutions.

"People with disabilities disagree. We believe we should be part of the society."

According to an amendment to the Fair Housing Act, all housing built after 1989 has to be accessible, said Bonnie Milstein, director of program compliance and disability rights at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The problem, she said, is that "compliance with the law has been spotty. Chicago has incorporated it into its city building code, but I'm told that not all building inspectors deny building permits if they don't comply."

Furthermore, Malleris is quick to point out that "accessible" refers only to minimum legal specifications and is a far cry from "barrier free."

Accessible just means built in such a way that it can be converted, he said. Such a conversion typically costs \$7,000 or more and is the responsibility of tenants who must convert units back before moving out, Malleris said.

"When you consider that a lot of disabled people have trouble finding jobs, very few of us can afford that," he said.

More than 19,000 people in DuPage County have mobility limitations, and about 45 percent of them are unemployed, according to government statistics.

Barrera said the need for accessible housing is overwhelming.

"We had to discontinue our referral program in 1989 because we

were just putting people on waiting lists," he said. "The community would get angry with us instead of getting angry with the politicians for not making more housing available."

At the time the program was dismantled, there were 600 people on the waiting list, he said.

Janice Dugan, a social worker at Loyola University Medical Center, said she wished something like Maple Court had been available in the years before she bought her condominium in Westmont.

"My first place was in a senior citizen Section 8 building in the South Loop," said Dugan, 42, who uses a wheelchair because of a spinal birth defect.

It was years before she could afford to own a home, and then it took 10 months to find one.

"The kitchens would be too narrow or the bathrooms would be too small, or the curb cuts would be wrong," she said.

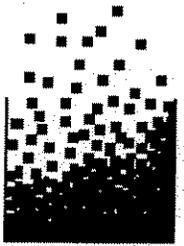
Even in her current home, the entry ramp is off-center from the front door. "I found out later it's because the ramp wasn't for people, it was for the garbage Dumpster," she said. "That was humbling."

A national architecture and product design organization in Raleigh, N.C., tries to remove such obstacles by encouraging accessibility standards for all buildings.

"The ideal situation, of course, is a universal design that allows the disabled to live in any neighborhood they want," said Ron Mace, director of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center in Raleigh.

Mace said such designs are the wave of the future, because increasing numbers of home buyers realize that they may need accessible housing as they age or in case of an accident, he said.

"It's very easy to do in the early planning stages of a house, but if it's not done then, it's very costly to renovate it when someone needs it."



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 April 11, 2001

My name is Peter Hamon. I am the Director of the South Central Library System, which serves the 50 public libraries and more than 700,000 residents of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood Counties. I am here to urge you to recommend restoration of dollars for an increase in Public Library System aids to the biennial budget bill now before the legislature.

Public Library System aids were not increased by even a single penny in the Governor's budget proposal for either year of the biennium. This represents a catastrophic blow to services that have taken over a quarter of a century to build.

The state made a bargain many years ago with its counties and municipalities. If they would fund library service to ensure that every Wisconsin resident had free access to a public library, then the state would, in turn, fund Public Library Systems at an amount equal to 13% of the previous year's local library expenditures. This represented an excellent value for the state, in that Wisconsin's residents received a dollar's worth of library service for a state expenditure of only 13¢. It was a benefit to localities because it at least enabled their libraries to afford service enhancements such as automated resource sharing systems, which were beyond the means of all but the largest libraries of the day. At present, Public Library Systems are not funded at the 13% level contained in the statutes. They are instead funded only at 10.1%. If the current budget proposal goes through the legislature unchanged, system funding will drop to 9.5% in the first year of the biennium, and to less than 9% in the second.

Public Library Systems are a very cost-effective way to provide library service to the citizens of Wisconsin. For instance, the number of interlibrary loans in the South Central System (that is, books borrowed from one library for the customers of another) reached almost 1.2 million this year. Each book requested through interlibrary loan represents an item that the borrowing library does not have to buy. A library book (averaging in the price of everything from paperbacks to reference books) costs in excess of \$20. 1.2 million interlibrary loans times \$20 per book represents a cost savings of \$24 million annually to our member libraries and the citizens who fund them.

Of course, to operate interlibrary loan effectively, you must have an adequate delivery system. Last year, South Central Library System vans carried some 6.9 million items

(over)

among libraries of all types throughout the state. Our delivery service cost just over \$1.15 million to operate. This works out to just under 17¢ per item delivered, a vastly less expensive solution than the US mail, which costs almost \$2.40 per book sent, including packaging and labor. Our delivery system thus represents a further cost savings of over \$15 million annually to the taxpayers of Wisconsin.

But as cost-effective as Public Library Systems are, increasing service demands from the public have still stretched us to the limit. The total number of interloan requests within South Central has been increasing by almost 200,000 (17%) per year, and shows no sign of leveling off. Our statewide delivery volume has increased by 1.6 million over the last two years (27%), and as more and more libraries automate, there is no reason to expect that this rate of increase will not continue. Our LINK automated system, which makes extensive resource sharing in the South Central area possible, was brought on-line in 1994. Its antiquated technology no longer meets many public needs, and it must be replaced in 2002. South Central borrowed \$400,000 in 1994 to help its member libraries underwrite the LINK system. Were we to take out such a loan again, without added funding, how would we pay it back? Last, but not least, I must mention our employees. In many budgets, cost of living increases are just assumed. They will happen whether the discretionary portion of the budget goes up or not. Not so with Public Library Systems. We are not taxing bodies, nor do we have some separate reserve upon which we can draw to fund staff expenses. Our Public Library System funding is all we get, and if we cannot afford even cost of living increases, then we can expect to see our carefully crafted teams of experts dissolve as our best employees seek the money to feed their families elsewhere.

The ostensible reason for the lack of any increased funding for Public Library Systems in the proposed budget is that there simply isn't any money. In accordance with the budget priorities currently contained in the document, this is true. For instance, the additional \$200 million proposed for corrections, three new highway projects costing in excess of \$292 million, and the more than \$80 million in new tax breaks proposed for corporations don't leave much wiggle room. But the key word here is priorities, and priorities can be changed. Even the additional \$11 million required to fund Public Library Systems at the full 13% statutory level makes hardly a ripple in the \$46 billion fiscal pond that is the state biennial budget. And frankly, the library community would settle for far less than 11 million dollars.

This is perhaps one of the most difficult budgets Wisconsin has faced in many years. Despite that, we must plead with you not to turn your back on a program that has served Wisconsin so well for over a quarter of a century. The future of Wisconsin's Public Library Systems is in your hands. Thank you for your consideration.



Statement by the Wisconsin Educational Media Association
On AB 144/SB 55
Joint Committee on Finance
April 11, 2001

The Wisconsin Educational Media Association opposes a provision in the Governor's budget bill that requires the Department of Public Instruction to fund increases to BadgerLink by assessing each school district a usage fee. School districts are already facing financial challenges due to the revenue caps, and requiring them to pay for a service available to every citizen, business, institution, and agency in Wisconsin is unfair. The library community feels that the entire cost of these contracts should continue to be funded through the Universal Service Fund. This resource benefits all citizens of Wisconsin, and the funding burden should not be placed on any public institution or agency.

The Wisconsin Educational Media Association supports full funding of the School Library Media Consultant position in the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. This position is an invaluable resource to school library media specialists, but it has remained vacant since the consultant retired in January 2001. WEMA urges the Legislature and the Governor to make the School Library Media Consultant position permanent through a line-item in the budget.

In addition, WEMA opposes reductions in other state-funded full-time positions in the Department of Public Instruction.

WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Affiliated with the National Education Association

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*

**Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing Testimony
Wednesday, April 11, 2001**

**By
Margaret Guertler, Secretary Treasurer
Wisconsin Education Association Council**

My name is Margaret Guertler. I am the Secretary Treasurer of the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC). Thank you co-chairpersons Burke and Gard and members of the Joint Finance Committee for this opportunity to speak to you today.

In the past, The Wisconsin Education Association Council has supported the removal of non-fiscal policy from the state budget. This year, once again, the Joint Finance Committee has received a list from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau highlighting non-fiscal items in Governor McCallum's proposed budget. WEAC is particularly concerned with several items listed in the Fiscal Bureau document under sections entitled Elections Board, Employment Relations, Employment Relations Commission, TEACH Board, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and all sections listed under Public Instruction. Many of these items are very complex and sometimes controversial.

WEAC believes that each non-fiscal policy item should be reintroduced as separate legislation where it may be given a full and fair public hearing before an appropriate standing committee of the Legislature. Only then can we determine whether each policy initiative truly places students in classrooms that work, promotes the recruitment and retention of great staff in our schools and maintains a public school system that benefits everyone in the community. Removal of these items will also allow the Joint Finance Committee to focus its efforts on the important task of examining the fiscal policy remaining in the 2001-2003 state budget.

Terry Craney, President
Michael A. Butera, Executive Director

WEAC has applauded efforts to remove all non-fiscal policy from the budget in the past, and hopes co-chairpersons Burke and Gard and the members of the Joint Finance Committee will decide to do so again this year. Thank you again for this opportunity to speak today.

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!* 

WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

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*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*

**Testimony on 2001-2003 Budget Bill (SB 55)
To the Joint Finance Committee
Wednesday, April 11, 2001
By
Stan Johnson, Vice President
Wisconsin Education Association Council**

Thank you chairpersons Burke and Gard and members of the Joint Finance Committee for this opportunity to speak today about issues contained in Governor McCallum's proposed 2001-2003 budget bill. My name is Stan Johnson. I am the Vice President for the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC).

In Wisconsin, we've achieved great success in building great schools. By virtually every measure, Wisconsin schools rank among the finest in the nation. Students learn here. They graduate here. They go on to get jobs here, keeping our state's employment rate among the highest in the nation and attracting new employers to our communities. Building great schools requires consistent effort and hard work, and we face greater challenges today than ever before. That is why educators across the state are dedicated to working with our elected officials, parents, administrators and communities to create the kind of education that is best for all of Wisconsin's children.

We believe that many provisions contained in Governor McCallum's budget will put our great public schools at risk. Governor McCallum's budget does little to place students in classrooms that work, shows no commitment to develop quality staff through collectively bargained approaches and promotes education schemes that will not benefit everyone in the community.

Governor McCallum's budget ratchets down even harder on revenue caps, makes dramatic cuts in the SAGE K-3 class size reduction program, grabs authority away from the DPI, expands the

Terry Craney, President
Michael A. Butera, Executive Director

scope of the voucher and charter school laws, freezes assistance to our WTCS system and includes several direct assaults on the bargaining rights of education employees.

WEAC believes great schools place students in classrooms that work. Governor McCallum's budget puts that at risk by:

- Dramatically reducing the SAGE K-3 class size reduction program.
- Ratcheting down even harder on revenue caps.
- Expanding the voucher program in Milwaukee.
- Limiting state funding of special education programs.
- Freezing or reducing aid to the WTCS and diminishing the authority of local boards.
- Misusing federal E-rate funds in the TEACH program and charging schools a fee for BadgerLink.
- Folding the Education Communications Board into a nonprofit corporation.

WEAC believes that great schools depend on a great staff. Governor McCallum's budget puts great schools at risk by:

- Expanding alternative certification of educators at the K-12 and WTCS levels.
- Giving school boards power to close schools and reassign staff without regard to seniority or bargaining rights.
- Allowing subcontracting of educational programs statewide.
- Creating a new "pay-for-performance awards" program for schools.
- Eliminating the right to bargain the choice of health care provider.
- Making establishment of the school calendar a prohibited subject of bargaining.
- Redefining the QEO to require that only "substantially similar" benefits be offered.
- Modifying the NBPTS incentive grant program but provide no additional funding.
- Diminish DPI's ability to distribute federal funds and place federally funded departmental positions at risk.

WEAC believes great schools benefit everyone in a community. Governor McCallum's budget puts great schools at risk by:

- Dramatically expanding the charter school law to include the CESAs, UW and WTCS.
- Creating a new Board of Education Evaluation and Accountability outside of DPI.
- Creating a new Rule Review Commission and a new Bureau of School Improvement.
- Creating a new grant program to encourage consolidation of services and districts.

The Wisconsin Education Association Council believes that every kid deserves a great school and that every citizen deserves a great technical college system. We look forward to working with the Joint Finance Committee and members of the Legislature in the coming months to achieve that goal. Thank you again for this opportunity to speak today.

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*

April 11, 2001

Co: chairmen Rep. Gard and Senator Burke and members of the Joint Finance Committee

I am Maureen Gallagher, Ph.D., director of Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I am here to support the budget provisions which enhance the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. The Archdiocese owns two of these schools which serve the lowest income children in the inner city. Both schools have close to 90% Choice enrollment. One school's enrollment is 100% African American; the other is made up of African Americans, Hispanics, Hmong, Laotians and a small percent of White students. These schools have become anchors for the neighborhood as we also provide before and after school care, opportunities for parents to get GEDs, clothing resale shops, family meal programs and services which empower people to own their own homes. We have 33 elementary schools and 5 high schools participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. These thirty-eight schools serve almost 4000 (exactly 3825) Choice students. The Choice program has enabled us to serve many low income children, two thirds of these children are children of color and 42% of our Choice students are the elementary school level are non-Catholic. At the high school level 71% of our Choice students are non-Catholic. Over the past three years our Choice enrollment has increased from 2,918 in 1998/99 to 3,825 in 2001-01. The highest percentage of Choice students are in are kindergarten and primary grades. We especially welcome these younger children because historically we have a wonderful track record of educating low income children when we can begin the learning process with them while they are young. We have also been effective in helping children who transfer to our schools who are below grade level in reading and math. 95% of the children who transfer to our schools as Choice students are below grade level, often by two or more grades. At one time the fear was that we would only attract the "best and the brightest" from the public schools. This has not happened. More often than not children enroll in our schools who have not done well in previous schools.

As Catholic educators, historically, we have been committed and successful in educating low income children. Thanks to the Choice program we are able to do this more effectively and help more young people learn, attain skills and values needed to build a better society. For all these reasons I support the budget provisions that support the Choice program.

Thank you.

Maureen Gallagher
3501 S. Lake Dr
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912
414-769-3450

Testimony to the Joint Finance Committee

April 11, 2001

Wisconsin State Capitol

My name is Michael M. Walsh. I live at 4914 Black Oak Drive in Madison. I teach in the Stoughton Area School District at River Bluff Middle School. I am a speech communications teacher for seventh and eighth grade students, teaching classes of public speaking, creative dramatics and video production. This is my nineteenth year of teaching.

The Stoughton schools are great schools of which I am very proud. And I believe that, like the commercial says, "Every kid deserves a great school." But I also believe that the revenue caps are inching our schools toward mediocrity.

Support to my classroom and students has diminished under the revenue caps. Support by educational assistants help make a classrooms that work. Over the last eight years educational assistant support to the teachers have dropped dramatically and consistently. One clerical educational assistant is assigned the work that four did six or seven years ago. Special education aides no longer assist me in my classroom with special education students with extreme needs who are mainstreamed. The lack of support combined with class sizes of 28 makes is quite difficult for me to give the individual attention my students deserve.

The revenue caps prevent lowering class sizes to keep students in classrooms that work. For the second year in a row at Stoughton High School, ninth grade core classes, such as language arts and math, which include mainstreamed special education students, are as high as 30 students. At Sandhill School the revenue caps force administrators to decide between hiring teachers to lower class size from as high as 30 or hiring educational assistants to work with volatile and sometimes violent special education students. The Stoughton district has studied class size issues, including going to referendum to secure revenue to lower class. But passing a class size referendum would be extremely difficult after voters recently passed a \$2.5 million referendum for maintenance delayed. Why was the facilities maintenance delayed? It was because the district did not want to cut the quality of instruction to stay under the caps.

Bit by bit the revenue caps are diminishing the quality of the Stoughton schools. Elementary art teachers no longer take a field trip to an art museum in Madison while they look for art projects that use cardboard because it's free. At the fifth and sixth grade school, art and music instruction is two-thirds of what it was two years ago. At the elementary schools library materials budgets have not increased in five years while the cost for picture books keep rising. At Stoughton High learning disabled students are not able to see a special education teacher three periods of an eight period day because the L.D. resource room goes unstaffed while those teachers cover a regular education study halls. The high school athletic director says the cost of transportation is up at least 10% because of rising gas prices. He fears the revenue caps are pitting teachers versus coaches and academics versus athletics, as cuts need to be made due to the revenue caps.

And as a coach, I know how important athletic and extracurricular activities are to overall growth of a child. The list goes on.

All this, and I have yet to mention the \$324,000 in district energy costs that will have to come right out of the classrooms. And Governor Mc Callum's budget wants to eliminate the inflationary adjustment to the revenue caps provided in previous years as well as rolling back summer school funding and offer no additional flexibility for declining enrollment districts?

The situation in will only worsen if there are no changes to the revenue caps. Next year the Stoughton district will have to cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from its operating budget. I ask you to consider more flexibility with the revenue caps to ensure the kids in Stoughton and Wisconsin go to school in great schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Walsh
Speech Communications Teacher
River Bluff Middle School
235 North Forrest Street
Stoughton, WI 53589



April 11, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Esther Olson, President—Academic Staff Public Representation Organization

RE: Position on SB55 / AB 144 – Biennial Budget Bill

Academic Staff comprise the largest group of University employees and the functions we perform are critical to the University's success. We teach undergraduate students and advise them on curriculum and careers, we conduct research, we help students make effective use of library resources, and we help keep students healthy. The University would not be the University of which we are all so proud without its many talented and hard working academic staff.

ASPRO understands the challenges faced in preparing this budget but believes it is important to be clear on those priorities that need to be addressed, should the state's revenue projections improve.

ASPRO supports the Economic Stimulus Package, a two-year supplement to the UW System biennial budget request approved by the University's Board of Regents in March 2001. The details of the proposal were eloquently provided to this committee on March 19 by UW System President, Katharine Lyall and Board of Regents President Jay Smith. Briefly, this package will "help the state of Wisconsin by increasing the number of students in high tech, high paying fields and by providing funding for student priorities." Two major components are more funding for part two of the Madison Initiative and funding for the Milwaukee Idea. The former is needed to procure the more than \$20 million in private matching funds for UW-Madison while the latter will provide for program growth at UW-Milwaukee. The package also provides support for library acquisitions and improved academic advising. The cost of this package is approximately \$20 million in state funds annually, in addition to the dollars included in the Governor's proposed UW System budget. It is a good investment, and will yield positive returns to the State of Wisconsin in the future.

As it has through the years, ASPRO continues to support linkage between tuition and financial aid. The Governor's budget provides no increase in funding for any of the state college grant programs, while most increases in UW program funding come from higher tuition rates. We all understand that some tuition increases are inevitable. However,

financial aid programs must also grow to ensure that economically disadvantaged students are not priced out of a college education.

The quality of the University depends on the quality of its faculty and staff. Compensation increases in the current biennium have put UW on the path to market parity for faculty and staff by 2005. Based on peer comparisons, the Board of Regents has recommended a 4.2% increase for faculty and staff. ASPRO strongly supports this proposal and urges that it be funded through the traditional GPR/Tuition revenue split on pay plan increases. It is important that we not reverse the progress toward market parity.

ASPRO appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns with you.

DeForest Area School District

Office of the Superintendent

O.S. Holum Education Center 520 E. Holum Street DeForest, Wisconsin 53532
(608) 846-6500 Fax No. (608) 846-6605

To: Members of the Joint Finance Committee
From: Jon Bales, Superintendent, DeForest Area School District
Re: State Education Budget Hearing
Date: 4.11.01

Co-Chairmen Burke and Gard and Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of my District, the DeForest Area Schools, a growing suburban district of Dane County. I would also point out, in terms of constituency groups, that I am a taxpaying resident and a parent of two children in the Wisconsin Public Schools. I point that out because my wife and I chose to move to Wisconsin deliberately for its strong public and higher education opportunities.

Like others here today, I am testifying over concern for the Governor's proposed education budget, and in particular the continuing reliance, and in fact expansion of revenue caps in establishing funding for public schools. I am urging you to consider flexibility in the revenue cap implementation.

It is not difficult for me to provide you the list of areas that have been impacted in my District because of the revenue caps.

- Increasing class sizes
- Curricular and extra-curricular program restrictions
- Reduced staff development opportunities
- Delayed facility maintenance and repair
- Technology infusion postponed
- Special education conflicts with regular education
- Reduction in fine arts opportunities
- Staff reductions
- Delayed purchases for high cost items such as texts

You have all heard this list before. In my view, the issue is not simply the contents of the list. Rather, it is the fact that we spend our time in education worrying about the list. At a time when one set of policy initiatives calls for increased accountability, program excellence, and student performance, another policy initiative, revenue caps, forces the attention not on excellence, but on collecting damage reports. We are here with you today

not to monitor progress, not to assess how we are doing on our accountability challenges, but to provide you with damage assessments.

Revenue caps at their inception had nothing to do with education. They were designed simply to control costs and to regulate property taxes. They have done that. Frankly, as a tool to guide districts to think about "living within their means" they have merit. But living within your means implies one has to make decisions about priorities and values among many choices. Unfortunately, not all elements within a public school budget are equal in weight when making local decisions about priorities and values. For example, there are many items within the budget of any school district that are outside the control of the local entity and therefore cannot be considered equally when it comes to making priorities and establishing value and worth. These include: special education, ESL, transportation, related fuel costs, general utilities, health insurance for our employees, and compliance with EEOC, or ADA regulations. There are no choices in these areas. The result is there are few remaining items we can "effect" in terms of expenditures and these have a more direct relationship to student instruction and performance. That is where the list comes from. At a time when one policy initiative emphasizes instructional accountability and student performance, it is clear that another policy initiative, revenue caps, is in direct opposition. You are not going to be able to sustain one of them. Which would we prefer to sacrifice?

Please, consider two actions. First, a recommendation to continue with some earnest the study of public education financing that will eliminate reliance on property taxes as the primary source of revenue support in the long term. We can eliminate revenue caps. Second, please address at least a short term mitigation of the "damage reports" you are receiving by taking measures to provide revenue cap flexibility. This should particularly include meeting the funding obligations for special education children, and allowing local control by way of a 1-2% override of the revenue cap limit for districts.

Again, thank you for you time. I appreciate the consideration and effort you continue to put into studying this issue. I would be happy to address any questions you might have.



EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

1000 Edgewood College Drive
Madison, WI 53711-1997

(608) 663-2206

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www.edgewood.edu

April 11, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members,

Office of Financial Aid

Thank you for taking the time to participate in public hearings around the state regarding the 2001-03 budget proposal for Wisconsin. Even though I am not able to personally attend today's session, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit a letter. As an Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Edgewood College in Madison, I am particularly interested in seeing increased funding for higher education, namely the Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program.

Funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant should be increased for two reasons. To begin with, the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is a need-based financial aid program for Wisconsin students attending a private, or independent, college or university in this state. If we want to keep students in the State of Wisconsin, we need to make education affordable for them so they do not attend out of state schools. I feel our school does its part in funding institutional grants and scholarships for students; however, state awards have not kept pace with the financial need of students. In fact, in the past 20 years, the maximum Wisconsin Tuition Grant award has increased just 15%, or \$300, from \$2000 in 1981 to the current \$2300.

Secondly, out of the approximately 20,000 students who apply for Wisconsin Tuition Grants each year, only half receive awards because there is simply not enough money. From an educational standpoint, it is very difficult to encourage students to come to Edgewood College when we know they won't get help from the state. It is easy to say these students should attend a public school if they cannot afford a private college, but private colleges educate one-fourth of the state's four-year degree-seeking students. Some students are just not meant to thrive in a larger public university setting.

I do not envy the task you have in front of you. I understand that budgets are tight and that everyone sees the need for more funding in whatever area is important to them. As someone who believes strongly in the value of a private education, I encourage you to make decisions that fund students first. Increasing funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program will help *Wisconsin* students attending *Wisconsin* private colleges and universities. Please show that you support higher education in the State of Wisconsin.

Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Lambrecht
Assistant Director of Financial Aid



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Office of Financial Aid

April 11, 2001

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for taking your time to hear my voice in public hearings around the state regarding the 2001-03 budget proposal for Wisconsin. I am grateful to be here today to talk about increased funding for higher education, namely the Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program.

My hope is that you will add more funding to Wisconsin Tuition Grants for students. I am an immigrant to the United States. Without this grant, I would not be able to afford to go to a Wisconsin Private College. Besides going to school fulltime, I work a part-time job off-campus, have a work-study job on campus, do volunteer work and take care of my family. I like the small class sizes at Edgewood and the personal attention I receive from faculty and staff. I strongly believe that as a student in Edgewood College I need state funding to continue going here. However if I don't get the fund I'm not sure that I will be able to go to college, which would prevent me from getting a good job.

The bottom line is that we need more funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant Program. I care about my private education and I think that Finance Committee Members need to fund STUDENTS FIRST.

Thank you very much for taking time to take care of this request for me, I really appreciate it. I look forward to hearing your decisions that fund students first. Please show that you support higher education in the State of Wisconsin.

Once again thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Sa Seng Lee

Student at Edgewood College

Madison, Wisconsin



4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102, Madison WI 53704
608-244-1455 fax 608-244-4785 wi_office@pta.org

DATE: April 11, 2001
TO: Honorable Members of the Joint Finance Committee
FROM: Winnie Doxsie, Wisconsin PTA President
RE: Education proposals in the 2001-2003 Budget

On behalf of the over 45,000 members of Wisconsin PTA I am expressing our deep concern about several issues in the current 2001-2003 budget proposal. I will group our concerns into 5 areas;

1. Revenue Limits and associated funding problems
2. Appropriate funding for programs such as SAGE and Special Education.
3. Diversion of public funds from public schools for the expansion vouchers
4. Support for quality teacher licensure
5. The Board of Education and Accountability

Revenue Limits

Wisconsin PTA believes that the current funding under the revenue limits is inadequate and finds the current budget proposal that further limit revenue for schools districts by eliminating the annual inflationary adjustment unacceptable.

In September and October I was a member of six panels that heard testimony around the state about the negative impacts of revenue limits on our school districts. On January 24, the capitol smelled like brownies as over 600 parents and community members representing over 50 groups and school districts came to share our concerns. We brought over 200 dozen brownies to the capitol demonstrating our concern and the futility of using fundraisers to make up budget deficits. Revenue limits are hurting our children – not “the district” OUR CHILDREN and selling brownies won’t touch the problem.

We need to increase money for schools not further limit it!

Problems that need addressed in the short term:

- Give school districts relief under revenue limits.
- Provide help for districts with declining enrollment.
- Provide help for districts with fixed costs that are rising so dramatically. How can a district provide a quality educational program when they are limited to less than 4% increase and fuel cost triple or insurance costs go up thirty percent?

I encourage you to look at the real cost of educating a child – not a state average number. One example of what I mean is this; school districts in the northern part of our state spend a lot of money transporting children to and from school, a much greater percentage of the education dollar than a relatively compact district in the southeast part of the state. Assuming all other factors were equal, which they are not, the southeastern children have more money available per pupil for direct instruction than those up north who spend hours each week on the bus.

Our school districts need and our children deserve immediate relief and I encourage you to find ways to provide some.

I have one final comment on revenue limits. Anything that will be passed in this budget will be appreciated but Wisconsin PTA believes that this problem will not go away without some serious change in the way we currently fund schools and I ask you to commit to looking for a long term solution.

(Attached to this testimony is a report I gave to the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors in October 2000 after I completed listening to the 6 hearings on the impact of revenue limits that were held around the state. I am including it so that you will have the opportunity to see the reactions of a volunteer mom, who is lucky enough to be the President of Wisconsin PTA. Listening to the problems our schools are having was difficult, troubling and the very real to me.)

Appropriate funding for programs.

SAGE is a program that should be expanded not cut back. We know that SAGE helps children achieve, I encourage you to find money to fund SAGE. We need to *invest* in the future of our children – an investment now to help a young child succeed will more than pay for itself when that young person is reading and able to succeed in school rather than becoming frustrated and dropping out with a limited future.

Birth – 3 Program is another service that helps catch problems early and gets our youngest children with special needs the attention they need to grow and meet their full potential. This program has not seen a funding cut, rather the criteria for service has been raised, leaving “marginal” (that really aren’t) children without services that they would greatly benefit from. Again, we are cutting off our noses to spite our faces; a relatively small investment now will reap great benefits later. Please look at this policy change and *restore* eligibility to the current level.

Special Education WI PTA *recommends* that the state budget proposal be amended to include sufficient funds to reimburse school districts for 50% of special education costs. In addition, WI PTA *recommends* that local school districts be reimbursed at a higher rate when they have children whose special education costs are extraordinary. For these “high-cost” students the reimbursement should be 90% of the costs of services that exceeds three times the state average cost per student.

Diversion of public funds from public schools for the expansion vouchers

Wisconsin PTA is steadfast in our opposition to any public funds being diverted from public schools. The Milwaukee School Choice Program does nothing to address the needs of all children in Milwaukee; instead it drains money away from every school district in this state to give money to private ventures that are not even held accountable or to the same standards as our public school system.

We would *support* legislation mandating that ALL schools receiving public tax dollars are held to the same standards, assessments hiring practices and data reporting.

We *oppose* any increase in the voucher program.

We *propose* using the \$36.3 million slated for increasing the voucher program be used to fully fund the proven SAGE program, expanding it to 2nd and 3rd grades, which would cost \$36.9 million.

Support for quality Teacher Licensure

Wisconsin PTA advocates for the maintenance of high quality teacher education and certification requirements that include; subject matter preparation, design of instruction, the art of teaching and teacher training in Parent Involvement Skills. The current budget proposals do not appear to meet these criteria. Any teacher receiving a temporary license must be required to complete the necessary training to acquire the skills that will enable them to deliver a standard of teaching quality expected of regularly licensed teachers. We *oppose* the budget proposal that weakens the standard for licensing our children's educators.

The Board of Education and Accountability

Wisconsin PTA *opposes* moving oversight for educational programs from the Department of Public Instruction. A politically appointed "Board" is not the best interest of our children; we need to work to keep political appointments out of education. The Department of Public Instruction, headed by an independently elected superintendent of Public Instruction, has the resources and skilled individuals to support education in Wisconsin. We need to keep all services and resources related to education in Wisconsin in one department, the Department of Public Instruction.

Fund the Department of Public Instruction

The Department of Public Instruction functions as a resource and leader for many programs that help our children. There are many services I am personally experienced with but I would point out one - the importance of DPI in working for increased parent involvement. Research proves that schools with meaningful parent involvement show increase student achievement. Please keep DPI funded so it will continue to be educational lead organization we need in Wisconsin.

Policy in the Budget

In general we find the practice of "hiding" policy changes in the budget document offensive and disrespectful. Proposals such as when a school district may hold a referendum or if school will be held on a certain date have no place in a budget bill. We urge removal of policy items from the budget document so they may be considered on their own merit.

I would be happy to expand on any of these remarks and or assist in any way. Our children are 10% of our present and 100% of our future. I encourage you to invest in them now.

**Forums on Revenue Limits
Initial report to the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors
October 2000**

Winnie Doxsie, President

I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard to help make the forums happen and those of you who took time to attend and give PTA a presence in this discussion.

I have heard over 14 hours of testimony (usually sitting on a hard uncomfortable chair), at the five locations, and learned a lot.

Each forum had a dominant theme with consistent messages throughout.

The testimony gave evidence that both revenue limits and the funding formula itself are negatively impacting our children.

Major areas of concern:

- ✓ Program cuts – not only the “nibbling” away of current programs as districts struggle to stay within the caps – but loss of proven programs that make a difference when the grant support runs out.
- ✓ Negative impact on teachers – Morale is low, supplies are short or nonexistent, loss of “special educators” librarians, guidance..... Teachers are supplementing their classroom supplies out of their own pocket – numbers varied from \$500 to over \$1,000.
- ✓ The problems of rural school districts – rural school districts cover a large area and the bussing expenses are fixed and unavoidable. When the gas prices soar, districts have nowhere to turn but to programs to make up the difference. The other factor is the fabric of rural communities – the school is the heart of many rural communities, closing these schools puts children on buses for a longer period of time and takes away a positive support for that community.
- ✓ Locking frugal districts into below the state average in per pupil spending. Many districts, in response to voter expectation (and legislative direction) had already started to look at their spending and trim expenses. These districts feel they are now being punished for being fiscally responsible. Districts like Superior are facing major cuts in programs that they consider critical to a well rounded education but aren't “core” subjects. Over 600 people came out to show their concern for and value in the arts programs in that community they value arts as part of a complete education for their children.
- ✓ Metropolitan districts around Milwaukee faced many of the same problems. One factor of concern is the expense of implementing open enrollment – one district sited a figure of \$6,500 in clerical expenses to enroll 20 students. MPS had a large number of speakers supporting the Immersion schools in that district and sited many examples of how these successful schools are being gradually made ineffective. (One school even had a TP collection because the budget didn't allow purchase; another student

explained that his drama class couldn't do a normal script process because there was no paper to print on.)

Common themes:

- ✓ Unfunded mandates – not only those within the education community but in general – recycling expense, asbestos removal, and much more.
- ✓ The “brain drain” – districts are having trouble attracting and keeping quality teachers. On our northern boarder teachers are hired away by Michigan schools who can pay \$6,000 more. Many areas of the country are offering signing bonuses and paying more – we can't compete. Some teachers are leaving the profession and others not starting because of the poor economic future.
- ✓ Talent drain – families have moved to Wisconsin because of our quality schools, but now there is starting to be a trend to move away – to better opportunities for their children.
- ✓ Even increasing fixed costs – gas for buses, heat and other utilities, insurance packages went up 40% last year in many districts.
- ✓ The high cost of Special Ed students – no one argues that these students have the right to a quality education, but the current system is pitting “regular ed” students against “special ed” student for a fixed pool of dollars and “regular ed” programs are suffering because of the mandated nature of most “special ed” programs. This concern was even expressed by “special ed” parents.
- ✓ The inability to innovate or mover forward. There is much schools can do today to help students succeed – many pilot programs, proven to help are now gone and others are still on the drawing board waiting for funds to come available.
- ✓ It is difficult for students in districts experiencing real distress to compete because of lack of advance courses or other opportunities that will help them compete in the colligate world.
- ✓ A few of the districts who aren't being severely impacted at this time did attend to express concern about where this policy was taking Wisconsin and the fears they had for their own quality programs.

This is by no means the “executive summery” of the events but a general idea. I haven't told you about the School District of Cassville or George in Superior – much compelling information. We are just beginning this process and we all will have a lot of work in front of us.

Date: April 11, 2001

To: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

From: Patty Anderson
3303 Conservancy Ln.
Middleton, WI 53562

Re: Temporary Teacher licensure as proposed in the governor's budget

My name is Patty Anderson. I am a parent, a taxpayer, a child advocate and a strong supporter of public schools. I am a member of the WI PTA Board of Directors and have been involved in every aspect of my children's education and have spent countless hours in their schools. I consider myself very knowledgeable about education and educational issues.

While I have opinions on most education issues, I would like to specifically address the issue of temporary teacher licensure as proposed in the governor's budget. I am not sure why, what is clearly an education and policy issue, even appears in this budget. Perhaps the governor is thinking to forestall a teacher shortage, cut educational costs, or is thinking he can weaken the teachers' union this way. Obviously, he is not thinking about the children who may be taught by such persons.

I am a nurse by training. Would we consider allowing someone who has worked in a related field or has a degree in a related field--say microbiology--to do my job giving patient care? I certainly hope and think not. The patient would certainly be short changed, just as Wisconsin's children would be short changed by people in their classroom being called teachers when they have not been trained as such.

Teaching is an art and a science. Certainly a person may be born with an aptitude toward teaching, but to be a good, qualified teacher requires appropriate training and experience. Wisconsin has long been recognized as a leader in public education and one reason for that is the high standards of education and training we require of our teachers. Some states have fast tracks for people wishing to move from some area of expertise into the teaching profession. The person is given credit towards an education degree for previous education and experience. However, they are expected to take all the education course work any other teacher must take and do the student teaching under supervision that is also required. This may be something to consider in Wisconsin, but not in the framework of this or any other budget.

A teacher in a classroom holds immense influence over the children she/he teaches. We want teachers in our class rooms who understand the different types of learning, know many techniques to help children learn, who can recognize a child with a learning problem or disability, know how to evaluate a child's progress accurately and be able to relate that information to parents and other education professionals. There are no short cuts to being a good, effective teacher. There are no short cuts in educating a child. Please, do not short change Wisconsin's children by allowing this temporary initial teaching license to remain a part of this budget. Please be sure Wisconsin's teachers adhere to the high requirements already established. And please, when considering the education portion of this budget, make Wisconsin's children your highest priority and **adequately** fund PUBLIC EDUCATION!

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance Wednesday, April 11, 2001

Dear Senator Burke, Representative Gard, and other members of the committee,

My name is Paul Nelson. I serve as Director of the Middleton Public Library. Today, though, I am speaking on behalf of the Wisconsin Library Association in my capacity as Chair of WLA's Library Development & Legislation Committee.

The Wisconsin Library Association is an organization, 2000 members strong, that represent the needs and interests of all types of libraries, library staff and trustees throughout the state. WLA's concerns regarding the 2001-2003 biennial budget are described below. You have heard about these concerns at your six previous public hearings that have been held throughout the state. I sincerely hope that you will help us to achieve at least some forward movement on them during the next biennium.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AIDS:

For over thirty years, the seventeen public library systems have been the backbone of cooperative library operations and the sharing of materials in the state of Wisconsin. State financial support for these systems has been eroding for several years now. Three years ago, the Legislative Council Study Committee on Public Libraries reviewed this issue in depth, and concluded that strong public library service is a partnership between the municipalities, the counties and the State. Legislation was passed that mandated counties fund at least 70% of a library's operating cost to serve the rural library users. Legislation was also passed that the State would provide system aid money at a level of 13% of the expenditures of public library municipalities and the counties. This percentage will shrink to below 10% by the end of this biennium with no additional funding. For a partnership to succeed, all entities need to be involved and abide by their commitment. Municipal library support has been increasing. Counties are now mandated to pay their fair share. The public library systems need the statutory index level of 13% to meet their mandated service areas and to continue the strong tradition of supporting resource sharing and cooperative services. The 13% funding level will also go a long way towards preserving Wisconsin's tradition of open access to local libraries. The Wisconsin Library Association asks to you fund library system aids at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requested amount of \$20,208,400 for FY 01-02, and \$21,420,900 for FY 02-03.

BADGERLINK:

Providing statewide Internet access to over 6,000 magazines, journals and newspapers to every library, school, business and home computer certainly was one of the most popular new services funded through the Universal Service Fund (USF). The proposed budget does contain DPI's requested increase of \$73,500 for FY 01-02 and \$150,200 for FY 02-03 to continue the statewide BadgerLink service. However, these increases do not come from the USF. Instead,

the Governor has authorized DPI to assess new fees to school districts to cover the additional funding creating an unfair burden on schools that are already saddled with revenue caps limiting other basic school needs. How these fees are to be determined and assessed per school district also puts additional work on a tight DPI staff. Because BadgerLink was developed to be an information and research service for all residents of Wisconsin, it is unfair to single out schools for this added fee. It is the request of the Wisconsin Library Association that all BadgerLink costs continue to come from the Universal Service Fund.

REFERENCE AND LOAN LIBRARY MATERIALS:

During the 1980s, the Wisconsin Reference and Loan (R&L) Library had an average materials budget of \$160,000 per year for new titles and information products. With budget reductions throughout the 1990s, the materials budget has now eroded to an annual amount of \$50,000. Libraries throughout the state rely on the R&L Library materials to compliment and augment their collections. The additional \$40,000 per year of the biennium for the R&L Library's materials budget requested by DPI is not found in the proposed state budget. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that these additional dollars be added to the Reference and Loan operating budget to enable this library to fulfill one of its main purposes, providing reference backup with current and reliable reference materials and products.

STATEWIDE RESOURCE CONTRACTS:

The State of Wisconsin funds four library resource contracts that provide citizens of the state with access to specialized services and materials that their local libraries are unlikely to provide: the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan, the Wisconsin Library Services on the UW-Madison campus, and the Cooperative Children's Book Center, also located on the UW-Madison campus. The requested increase to provide continued access to these specialized resources was \$97,300 for FY 01-02 and \$125,300 for FY 02-03. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that the DPI budget proposal for the four resource contracts be approved to insure current levels of service are retained.

UW SYSTEM LIBRARIES:

Wisconsin's university libraries have a great reputation for excellence. To maintain the UW System's goal of making available to students, faculty, the business community and government the most up-to-date and comprehensive collection of various library resources in numerous fields of study, it requires regular incremental increases to the UW library budget. The Board of Regents requested a \$4.7 million increase to base funding during both years of the biennium. However, this increase was not forwarded in the current budget proposal. The Wisconsin Library Association requests that the dollar amount asked for by the Board of Regents be supported by the Legislature to insure that the various UW libraries maintain their standard of excellence for the students, in particular, and additionally, all the citizens of the State of Wisconsin.

GPR FUNDING FOR DPI POSITIONS:

Many key DPI consultant positions are currently funded wholly or in part by federal dollars, or are being targeted to be solely federally funded. Various positions go unfilled or are eliminated when incumbents retire or leave, or disappear when federal funds are withdrawn. Without these consultants, schools and public libraries would lack the crucial link needed to access and understand DPI programs, policies and technological information. The Wisconsin Library Association joins with the Wisconsin Educational Media Association in asking the

Legislature to carefully review the growing dependence on federal dollars to pay for extremely valuable state employees who work with the library community on a regular basis.

COMMON SCHOOL FUND:

In many school districts, the only money being used to purchase new materials comes from the Common School Fund. The Governor has included \$5.3 million for FY 02 and \$6.8 million for FY 03 from the DPI request. This money is critical to the survival of many school library media centers. The Wisconsin Library Association applauds the Governor on this action and fully supports this request.

TEACH WISCONSIN CHANGES:

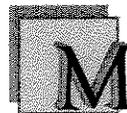
The Governor has included three major revisions to the TEACH guidelines which will allow public libraries to borrow funds from the TEACH loan program for communication hardware to enable direct connections to the Internet, enable public library branches in cities and counties to be eligible for Teach subsidized T-1 telecommunication lines, and, approve the sharing of T-1 lines between public libraries and other municipal or county government offices. The Wisconsin Library Association enthusiastically supports these revisions to the TEACH guidelines.

NEWSLINE FOR THE BLIND:

The Governor has requested funding to expand this telephone information service statewide. The additional funding will expand this current service from three national newspapers to include two state newspapers and a job information service. The Wisconsin Library Association fully supports the request for additional funding to expand this program.

TRUST FUND LOANS:

The Governor's budget proposes allowing public library systems in two or more counties to borrow funds from the State Trust Fund. This is an important and affordable way for systems to upgrade various technology and equipment within current budget constraints. This proposal, to expand loan procedures, is supported by the Trust Fund's staff and the Wisconsin Library Association.



Middleton Public Library

Paul Nelson
Director

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Beverly S. Simone
President

**Testimony of Beverly S. Simone, Ed.D.
President, Madison Area Technical College
Joint Finance Committee, April 11, 2001**

Good morning, I'm Beverly S. Simone, President of Madison Area Technical College (MATC). MATC includes portions of 12 counties and serves around 50,000 taxpayers annually. MATC is an important part of South Central Wisconsin's strong economy. A recent study found MATC contributes \$500 million annually to the local economy. This means a single year of MATC's economic contribution exceeds the combined economic impact from the two years of the Kohl Center construction and the first two years of the Center's operation.

I'm appearing today to reinforce the message you've heard at other Joint Finance Committee hearings: it is vital that the 2001-2003 biennial budget provide at least the 4.1 percent requested increase in state general aids for the Wisconsin Technical College System.

One of the key issues facing Wisconsin is the availability of adequate and well-trained workers. No other Wisconsin organization has the long, successful history shared by our 16 technical colleges of addressing the State's workforce needs. According to Department of Labor statistics, 80% of all jobs require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree. The WTCS educates recent high-school graduates and re-trains workers in response to this need. We partner with business and industry to identify and meet their changing workforce demands.

We want to continue our successful efforts in these areas. But the reality is that, without increases in funding, it will be increasingly difficult for our technical colleges to even maintain current program capacity. In addition, our ability to serve more potential workers will be severely hampered. History teaches us (many of you may remember the 1980s) that, as the economy slows down, the demand for our programs and services increases. And our economy is certainly slowing.

Do not force us to deny access to citizens who may need additional training and education to maintain and enhance their career opportunities. Please fund the 4.1 percent increase.

Everyday we see real examples of how the availability and affordability of technical colleges changes lives. With me today is Theresa Kozel who knows first hand what a difference technical colleges can make. As you listen to Theresa's story remember that she represents only one of the 50,000 students MATC serves annually. Remember that each student has a story to tell. These stories reflect how our communities and our economy benefit from technical education. State funding will ensure an educated Wisconsin workforce.

Joint Finance Hearing
April 11, 2001 – Madison

My Name is LeRoy Lee. I'm the former Executive Director of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and now in retirement the Director of the Wisconsin Coalition for the Advancement of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education. I am here to speak personally in support of the Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative, more commonly called WASDI. I want to thank Senator Shibilsky for introducing a motion to add WASDI to the state budget to provide funding for the continuation of this coordinated statewide program.

The genesis of WASDI was through the work the Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Instruction. Approximately ten years ago they jointly developed a plan for a systemic initiative to provide coordinated professional development for science and mathematics teachers throughout Wisconsin. The initiative was based on the concept of teaching centers modeled after the Cray Academy developed by the Cray Research Corporation.

While the effort to secure funds at that time was unsuccessful, it did provide the model for a six million dollar National Science Foundation grant received six years ago. The grant, with the collaboration of business, education and agencies, developed teaching centers called academies in ten sites around Wisconsin. The vision, as early defined by the Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Instruction, was every teacher in Wisconsin in commuting distance to quality coordinated professional development designed to meet teacher needs and teacher time schedules. Since 1995 the academies have provided one-week professional development opportunities for more than 12,000 teachers through the combined efforts of school districts, businesses, agencies, colleges and universities.

Science, mathematics and technology are the foundation for economic growth in Wisconsin. The WASDI program works to provide teachers with content information, teaching strategies, and business experiences so that they can help students prepare for a future that is different than what we experience today. Evaluations have shown that the program has been highly successful in providing teachers throughout the state with state of the art professional development in science, mathematics and technology education.

The WASDI program has been partially federally funded for the last seven years with additional funding from school districts and the business community. Last year funding was included in the Governor's proposed budget, but it was not funded. Now federal funding is ending. To keep this program operating in Wisconsin it is necessary to seek supplemental state funding

Please help support the Shibiliski motion to continue this program. Your support will be greatly appreciated by the thousands of participating teachers as well as the ten coalitions of business and education that have developed in each of the academy sites.

Sauk Prairie Schools

Mr. John J. Freehill
213 Maple St.
Sauk City, WI. 53583

To: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

From: Jack Freehill, Director of Student Services
Sauk Prairie Schools

Re: Special Education Funding

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jack Freehill and I have been a Special Education administrator in the State of Wisconsin since 1973, first in Appleton, and currently for the Sauk Prairie Schools. Both of the districts I have worked in have had only the best interests of the students in mind, but both districts have suffered from inadequate funding over that period of 28 years.

In 1973 when I was new, the legislature gave us a mandatory special education attendance law that required children, no matter their ability level, to attend school. Attached to Chapter 89, Laws of 1973, was "sum sufficient" funding – the amount of dollars required to do the job. As a Special Education Director, I was very pleased to know that I had chosen well in the jobs that I had applied for – Wisconsin was going to take good care of the students I had prepared myself to work for. Over the next few years' services for students with disabilities expanded so rapidly that the sum sufficient part of then Chapter 115 was quickly removed. Funding for services for students with disabilities has been a source of contention ever since. The mandate for school districts to educate all students continues with continual assaults on the funding needed to accomplish the task for students with disabilities. When the federal government joined the picture in 1975 with P.L. 94-142 a funding level of 40% of costs was promised. This level of funding has never been reached and it is only within the last two to three years that significant increases have been noted with federal dollars. The real concern for special education administrators is that the number of students continues to increase while the funding is not keeping pace. This is all within the context of response to referrals received from regular education.

The Sauk Prairie School District is a largely rural district with about 2600 students. When I became Director of Student Services for the 1994-95 school year the district was serving 302 students in Special Education programs. The school year 2000 district Head Count report showed 432 students receiving special education services. This 30% increase in student numbers served is due to an increased number of referrals received. The increase in referrals could be due to a greater awareness of disabilities; better special education programs; a greater awareness on the part of parents; better evaluation systems; more or less of whatever – it really makes no difference why, the students do meet eligibility criteria and are afforded the opportunity of services to meet their needs. The funding to support the mandate needs to follow the students. Without additional dollars in the budget, services will become more and more minimal. Students with disabilities are still required to attend school and districts are still required to provide services that meet their

defined needs. The funding of education in the state has always seemed like a matter of distribution and re-distribution of funds rather than any "new" money ever being available. Dollars seem to be moved to meet whatever the current high need area is. What is required, I believe, is a new pot of dollars that will fund Special Education services. I am, of course, an advocate for students with disabilities, so it is expected that I would propose additional funding. I am also aware that there are financial constraints everywhere and, in that light, I think it appropriate that the entire Wisconsin legislature draft a "Will of the Wisconsin Legislature" document that joins in the pressure to your federal counterparts to generate real increases in the IDEA funding to finally get it to the 40% level promised in 1975. Your voices in conjunction with ours might help with more attention and possible larger financial response.

As far as the current budget proposal is concerned, special education aid needs to be increased more than the 25 million in the Governor's budget. In the Sauk Prairie schools special education and regular education would then not have to spar for additional staff positions.

High cost students need to be reimbursed at higher levels. The high cost student we have been serving for the past three years is a real \$50,000 per year price tag student. This student is one that has a diverse set of needs, including support services, aide time, special transportation requirements, and health related issues. For these students districts should be reimbursed at a 90% level as one student can require such large sums of money.

The funding of Special Education services on a census based formula will ultimately have a negative effect on small districts as disassociating the funding from services will mean that reimbursements will not accurately reflect the actual provision of services in the district.

In my 28 years I have not witnessed students being referred and identified in order to generate additional handicapped aids. The concerns that come with more students far outweigh the benefits the small amount of aid dollars provides.

I want to thank the committee again for the opportunity to provide my thoughts and experiences for your consideration. Funding for Special Education will probably always be a problem. As a legislature you can be a force in the lives of students with disabilities by continuing to support students with disabilities in Wisconsin.

Good Morning Senator Burke, Representative Gard and members of the Committee, *Senator*

My name is Cristina Cetina. My children attend St Adalbert school using the CHOICE program. I am speaking today for many of the parents of children at St Adalbert school who could not come here today. These parents are my friends and know what they think.

St Adalbert has 250 children who come from low income families. Most of these students are minority students; many speak little English. All of these children have something in common. Their parents can not afford to send them to private schools because they simply do not earn enough money to do so.

Many of the families at my school struggle just to put food on the table and keep heat in their homes. Paying for education, no matter how little it may be just is not possible.

We are very happy to have this program which lets us send our children to St Adalberts. Without it, I would be forced to send my children back to MPS. I do not want that. I want to be able to send my daughter and son to a Catholic school where I know they are getting a good education in a safe school.

I know that parents who earn a lot of money can choose where they want to send their child. I want that same option. The parents I am speaking for today want that same option too. Please do not take this program away from us.

Thank You