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☞ Details: Audit requests, 2005

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2005-06

(session year)

### Joint

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Audit...

## COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

## INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                      (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

FORWARD

# Alberta Darling

## Wisconsin State Senator

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

January 5, 2005

Honorable Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Audit Committee  
8-South, State Capitol

Honorable Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chair, Joint Audit Committee  
314 – North, State Capitol

Dear Chairwomen:

I officially request the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approve an audit of Wisconsin's Truth-in-Sentencing law. The law, which was enacted as 1997 Wisconsin Act 283, was adopted by the Legislature's Criminal Penalties Study Committee with substantial bipartisan support.

As a strong supporter of the original law, and the subsequent update of sentencing guidelines, I believe it has had a positive effect on Wisconsin. However, recent media reports have raised legitimate questions regarding the cost and inflexibility of the sentencing guidelines. I would like this law to succeed, but I believe a thorough examination of the law's implementation by the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau will help lawmakers identify improvements.

I would like the scope of any approved audit to deal with specific areas as they relate to Truth-in-Sentencing:

- Other States*
- 1) Has the law resulted in a decrease in recidivism, particularly for certain crimes?
  - 2) Has the original intent of the law been achieved?
  - 3) Does the cost of the full implementation of the law make it cost-effective to Wisconsin's taxpayers?
  - 4) Are there specific strategies that can be employed to reduce sentencing costs?
  - 5) Is the experience with Wisconsin's law similar to that seen in other states?

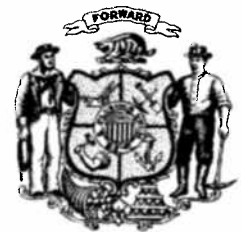
In short, I believe it is an excellent time to review this law to ensure changes can be carefully deliberated in the context of a nonpartisan audit. If warranted, we can then make improvements where needed. If we act now, I hope we can bolster and strengthen the law before there are movements to weaken it, or overturn it completely. I look forward to consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

  
ALBERTA DARLING  
State Senator



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 21, 2005

Senator Alberta Darling  
316 South, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Darling:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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

84,000 reg  
polls

January 19th, 2005

The Honorable Carol Roessler  
Chair, Joint Committee on Audit

The Honorable Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Chair, Joint Committee on Audit

2000  
3600  
Cards come  
DA - Support

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

Re: Audit of Voter Address Verification Cards in City of Milwaukee

We are writing this letter to request an audit of the Voter Address Verification Cards in the City of Milwaukee. As it is now known, 84,000 on-site registration cards were submitted on election day in the City of Milwaukee. Of that number, 73,079 of the cards could be processed. Over 10,000 could not even be sent out. We would like an audit to establish an accurate count of the number of cards that were returned as 'undeliverable'. We also believe it is necessary to establish a breakdown of the reasons given for the cards being returned. A second part of the audit would need to look at the 10,000 cards that could not be processed. We are looking for a breakdown as to why the cards were unable to be processed.

The audit would be an important step to determine what has gone wrong with the election process and allow for a more informed discussion on how to fix the problems currently plaguing our election process in Milwaukee.

As Wisconsin's most populous city, Milwaukee is of great importance to the validity of Wisconsin's statewide elections. Citizens who cast legal votes in our districts may be disenfranchised due to the inappropriate actions in Milwaukee. It is important, from a statewide perspective, that we audit and address these serious concerns.

If there are any questions that would help the committee with this request please feel free to contact the Stone office at 266-8590.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Joseph Leibham

Senator Ted Kanavas

Senator Tom Reynolds

Senator Mary Lazich

Representative Jeff Stone

Representative Mark Honadel

Representative Leah Vukmir

Representative Scott Gunderson

Representative Mark Gundrum

Representative Robin Vos

Racine Racine

Letter to Jeff Stone

address verification card

84,000

undeliverable

4,000

Amey

PER  
Fixed  
over  
size

HAUACT

needs Assessment  
- calculate  
- stand up  
- need/plan

Compliance  
state & local govt  
Complaints

DA  
Audit  
state  
studies  
studies

coming  
return

90-9200  
staff -  
creatively  
ways  
respond



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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

January 19th, 2005

The Honorable Carol Roessler  
Chair, Joint Committee on Audit

The Honorable Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Chair, Joint Committee on Audit

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

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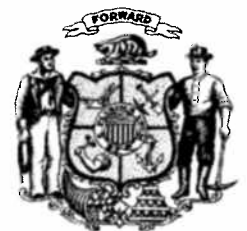
Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Joseph Leibham  
Senator Ted Kanavas  
Senator Tom Reynolds  
Senator Mary Lazich

Representative Jeff Stone  
Representative Mark Honadel  
Representative Leah Vukmir  
Representative Scott Gunderson  
Representative Mark Gundrum  
Representative Robin Vos



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE







# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

January 25, 2005

Senator Carol Roessler  
Representative Susan Jeskewitz  
Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Hand-delivered

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

We are writing to you to request an audit of the compliance with and implementation of section 16.705 Stats by state agencies.

There has been considerable attention paid recently to contracts by state agencies for information technology and engineering services. The contracts for a website for the Marquette interchange, a database for voter registration and engineering on state highway projects have come under significant public scrutiny recently. In addition, the administrative goal of reducing the number of state employees by 10,000 will likely increase the reliance on contracting out for services by state agencies.

While Section 16.705 provides that agencies may contract for services, it specifies that agencies may do so only if those services can be performed more efficiently or more economically by contract rather than by state employees. In order to ensure accountability, the statute requires specific findings by the agency to justify such contracts. The requirements of each agency are further specified in ADM10 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

To help determine whether information technology, engineering and other professional services procured through contract could have been performed more economically if they have been undertaken by state employees, we would ask that the audit address the following questions:

Have agencies fully complied with the requirements of s. 16.705 Stats and ADM 10.05?

Have agencies adequately explored the potential of procuring the services of other state agencies as required by statute before procuring services by contract?

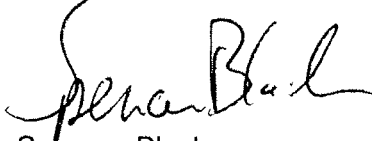
In evaluating the cost effectiveness of contracts, have agencies fully accounted for all costs of the contract including use of state facilities, supervision of the contract by state employees, and all other relevant costs incurred by the state?

When procuring contractual services, have agencies met all statutory requirements for competitive bidding, open records and open meetings?

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spencer Black". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Spencer Black  
State Representative

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terese Berceau". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Terese Berceau  
State Representative

# **WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE**

P.O. BOX 8952 – MADISON, WI 53708

**FOR RELEASE:  
Tuesday, 25, 2005**

**For more information:**  
Rep. Spencer Black (608) 266-7521  
Rep. Terese Berceau (608)266-3784

## **AUDIT REQUESTED OF STATE CONTRACTS**

Citing numerous recent controversies surrounding state contracts with private firms, two legislators today requested an audit of state contracts with private firms. State representatives Spencer Black and Terese Berceau asked for the audit to help determine whether information technology, engineering and other professional services procured through contract could have been performed more economically if they have been undertaken by state employees,  
*Letter requesting audit attached.*

In their letter to the Legislative Audit Committee, the legislators wrote "There has been considerable attention paid recently to contracts by state agencies for information technology and engineering services. The contracts for a website for the Marquette interchange, a database for voter registration and engineering on state highway projects have come under significant public scrutiny recently. In addition, the administrative goal of reducing the number of state employees by 10,000 will likely increase the reliance on contracting out for services by state agencies."

Rep. Spencer Black, who helped organize the effort, commented "State law requires that state agencies may contract out for services such as website design or highway engineering only if the agency can demonstrate that those services can be performed more efficiently or more economically by contract rather than by state employees. We want to make sure that the law is being followed and that the taxpayers are getting their money's worth."

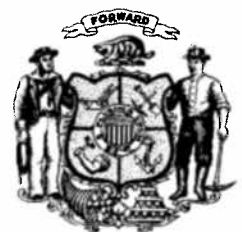
Rep Terese Berceau noted: "State employees work is efficient and economical, and state employees are accountable to the public. There should be strong justification before state employees are laid off and their jobs outsourced."

The legislators asked that the audit address the following questions:

- Have agencies fully complied with the state law governing contracts?
- Have agencies adequately explored the potential of procuring the services of other state agencies as required by statute before procuring services by contract?
- In evaluating the cost effectiveness of contracts, have agencies fully accounted for all costs of the contract including use of state facilities, supervision of the contract by state employees, and all other relevant costs incurred by the state?
- When procuring contractual services, have agencies met all statutory requirements for competitive bidding, open records and open meetings?



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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**BOB JAUCH**

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**WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR**

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JAN 31 2005

January 25, 2005

✓ JS

Senator Carol A. Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
8 South State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
314 North State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53703-8952

Dear Chairs Roessler and Jeskewitz:

I am writing to formally request an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's use of private contractors in lieu of full-time public employees.


Currently two conflicting state studies exist on the issue of private contracting, or outsourcing, of state agency work. These dueling positions provide the backdrop for the current biennial budget, and the further reduction of the state's workforce as part of a deficit solution.

The Department of Transportation has already taken a large portion of the employee reductions, and is certain to see additional cuts in the upcoming budget. Faithful, competent and loyal DOT employees in my district and across the state deserve to have an unbiased and well-researched analysis of practices that have a direct impact on their future employment.

The Legislative Audit Bureau has long been recognized as an unpartisan entity that conducts second-to-none analysis and research of often-controversial issues. I am certain that an Audit conducted by Director Mueller and her staff would be of tremendous value in crafting future State employment policies to the benefit of both the employees and the taxpayers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

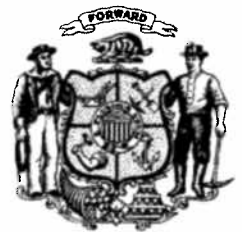
Sincerely,

  
Bob Jauch  
State Senator

Cc: Janice Mueller, Director Legislative Audit Bureau



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State Senator

*Cathy Stepp*

WISCONSIN'S 21ST DISTRICT

January 25, 2005

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Audit  
8 South State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator *Roessler*:

Over the past few weeks, I have heard from several dentists in my district interested in having the Legislative Audit Bureau conduct an audit of the Department of Health and Family Service's dental HMO program.

These dentists are concerned that, under the current system, too many Medicaid dollars are being spent on administrative overhead and not enough are going toward actual dental treatment. In these times when we are faced with a deficit in the Medicaid budget, I believe that it is even more important than usual that we make sure these dollars are being spent wisely.

It is my understanding that you will be meeting soon with your Assembly counterpart to discuss potential audit requests. I know you are receiving many audit requests from your colleagues, but I would ask that you give strong consideration to an audit of DHFS's dental HMO program.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp  
State Senator  
21<sup>st</sup> Senate District





JAN 28 2005



**DAVID CULLEN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

January 25, 2005

Sen. Carol Roessler  
Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chairs, Joint Audit Committee

Dear Sen. Roessler and Rep. Jeskewitz,

I have been contacted by a number of dental professionals who have requested an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services' dental HMO program.

As you are aware, this program is only in effect in Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties. Under the program, the state contracts with medical HMOs in exchange for a commitment from the HMOs that they will provide for the dental care needs of their enrollees. According to these professionals, this arrangement costs the state approximately \$10 million per year.

A number of potential problems have been identified which I believe merit an audit. As a member of the Joint Audit Committee, I request that you consider this program for an audit.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about this request and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

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

**DAVID A. CULLEN**  
State Representative  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 26, 2005

Representative Terese Berceau  
208 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Berceau:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

## Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 26, 2005

Representative Spencer Black  
210 North, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Black:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

*Joint Legislative Audit Committee*

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 26, 2005

Senator Cathy Stepp  
7 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Stepp:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

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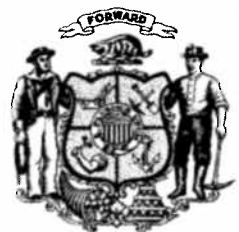
Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State Representative

**Dan Meyer**

Member: Joint Committee on Finance

January 27, 2005

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 314 North  
State Capitol

Senator Carol Roessler, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
Room 8 South  
State Capitol

Dear Co-Chairs Jeskewitz and Roessler:

I am writing to request a legislative audit of the Department of Natural Resources Hunter Education Program.

I believe that this will be a relatively straight-forward smaller audit that simply takes a comprehensive look at the Hunter Safety Education Program, including how the program is funded and staffed. An independent audit can shed light on how the DNR is spending the money that has been allocated to this program.

I believe that this is an area in which the Legislative Audit Bureau has not previously done any work. An independent review of how the DNR is spending money in this area, how other states perform such training and how Wisconsin can improve our program would be beneficial.

I have attached an article from *The Lakeland Times* that has recently raised several concerns about how the program is currently operated. I thought the article might be helpful. If you have any questions, or need anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me at (608) 266-7141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Meyer  
State Representative  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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**outdoors**

"Deer harvest down more than 25 percent in Oneida and Vilas"

**features**

"Another Minocqua landmark under the wrecker's ball"

**EDITORIALS**[More articles](#)**Hunter education program needs to be audited****By: Richard Moore**

In light of serious criticism about the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) hunter education program, state lawmakers need to ask for an immediate audit to discover the truth about the administration and condition of that effort.

An audit is especially necessary given the response to the negative critique by Hunter Education Administrator Tim Lawhern.

In recent articles, Allan Pribnow of Port Wing, an instructor himself, has accused the agency of cutting class time and course quality, as well as deliberately limiting reimbursement for instructors. The result, he says, is fewer students being certified and the resignation of volunteer instructors.

According to Pribnow, that means wardens must fill in, gobbling up federal hunter education dollars to pay for their time and expense. In effect, he says, federal dollars that should be used for classroom instruction are going to subsidize wardens' salaries.

Then, too, Pribnow has raised questions about accountability, pointing to high overhead costs as well as to questionable trips and other expenses paid by the hunter education program.

Lawhern takes issue with every one of these points, but that's where the problem begins.

To be honest, after conducting my investigation, I don't know which one of these fellows is right, or whether the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

There are hunter education instructors out there who support Lawhern's position, to be sure, and there are those who support Pribnow's point of view as well. There is also enough data to corroborate much of what Pribnow says and seems to suggest his other criticisms are valid, too.

But while Lawhern dismisses the criticisms and disputes the data supporting it, he and the agency have either stonewalled or otherwise been unable to satisfy our attempts to gather internal information to validate Lawhern's claims.

The data is certainly inside the department somewhere, but no one outside the agency has any reasonable access to it.

Take, for instance, the charge that volunteer instructors are leaving. The DNR's own published data indicates that's true, with almost 300 fewer instructors in 2003 than in 2000.

Asked about this, Lawhern says the program hasn't lost a single instructor in total numbers in the 11 years he's headed the program. Just the opposite is in fact true, he

**Dec 21**

**Poll:** On what do you focus your holiday celebrations?  
[Vote](#)



claimed, with the volunteer corps growing.

He blamed the discrepancy on a problem within the law enforcement safety record software. Run it one way and you get one set of numbers, he said; run it another way and you get another set of numbers.

Now, come on. If we take Lawhern at face value, the DNR is publishing unreliable official statistics, at best, or false numbers, at worst. If he is to be believed, no one can trust any figures the DNR publishes.

On the one hand, if the published numbers are correct, the program is really in trouble; on the other hand, if the published numbers are incorrect, that means there is colossal mismanagement inside the hunter education program, if not statutory violations pertaining to information collection and maintenance.

Either way, there's a problem serious enough to warrant immediate legislative intervention.

The same goes for allegations about wardens teaching classes once taught by volunteer instructors. Pribnow says it's happening more and more; Lawhern says it doesn't happen very often.

But again, Lawhern can't provide the proof. He called it a "real rarity," but, when pressed, he also said he doesn't know how many are or aren't teaching classes, or at what cost. How then does he arrive at his conclusion?

And when Pribnow demanded that information, DNR Secretary Scott Hassett wanted to charge him thousands of dollars to gather it, saying it didn't exist in any already compiled form.

Here again, one would think the DNR would want to routinely track such figures as part of the program's basic administration. Certainly the agency should want to know exactly how many instructors are teaching classes both to guard against the unnecessary diversion of wardens' precious time and to double check the health of the volunteer corps itself.

But the DNR says it doesn't do that, and that's worrisome from a management point of view.

Ditto for whether the agency is spending hunter education dollars needlessly and excessively for trips and other unwarranted expenses.

As our article reported, Pribnow has questioned whether the department paid the wages and expenses for up to 20 wardens to attend a weekend Ducks Unlimited event to staff a booth about hunter education.

That would seem excessive, if true, but the DNR says it just doesn't know whether that happened or not. To find out would cost \$1,690.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but one more time this raises serious management issues. I simply find it unfathomable that the hunter education program would not know how many people it is assigning to special events or how much of its budget goes to pay for travel expenses and wages associated with such occasions.

Any private business that did not keep such records would be bankrupt in a heartbeat, and I cannot imagine any unit of government being so sloppy, either.

Over the years, for instance, in the course of covering Oneida County government, we have periodically asked for travel and attendance records for various events, and Oneida County Finance Director Margie Sorenson has always delivered the information promptly.

Yet the DNR says it doesn't have a clue. Wow.

There are other points each side can more clearly argue about – whether declining student

certification is due to demographics or not, whether the new hunter education manual is up to the task, how many hours it actually takes to teach a decent hunter education class.

But surely none of those debates can be won or lost until the basic issues relating to data and management are addressed.

Until we know definitively whether the state is losing volunteer instructors or not, until we know whether hunter education dollars are being diverted to wardens' salaries or spent wastefully, we can't really answer questions about the quality of the courses or about the general trend inside the hunter education program.

The bottom line is, Lawhern's answers – though they could eventually turn out to be true – lack any foundation in any facts or data currently available to us.

Explanations about the unreliability of published statistics, assertions about the lack of data pertaining to expenditures, a professed ignorance of warden participation – all these raise red flags instead.

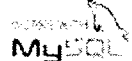
They demand an immediate audit of the program.

The whole controversy should give all of us the shivers. For if this one slice of the DNR – about \$1 million out of an annual departmental budget of almost \$1 billion – is being so poorly managed, its funds so poorly accounted for, what's happening with the other \$900-plus million dollars the agency has at its disposal?

Our lawmakers need to find out – and quickly.

**Posted:** November 12, 2004

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REPRESENTATIVE GARY E. SHERMAN  
74th Assembly District

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 266-7690  
Toll-free: 1-888-534-0074  
Fax: (608) 282-3674  
E-mail: rep.sherman@legis.state.wi.us

District Address:  
P.O. Box 157  
Port Wing, WI 54865  
715-774-3691

27 January 2005

Senator Carol Roessler  
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-Chairs, Audit Committee

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

I am requesting an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services dental HMO program. We have received a letter from a constituent dentist who has expressed concern about the program. I have enclosed a copy of the letter for your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Gary E. Sherman

jk

BAY DENTAL ASSOCIATES, S.C.  
ROBERT G. STROMBERG, D.D.S.  
819 WEST LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
ASHLAND, WISCONSIN 54806  
TELEPHONE (715) 682-6675

01-12-05

JAN 2 2005

Rep. Gary Sherman  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Rep. Gary Sherman:

First, I'd like to explain my connection to you: I am a constituent dentist who resides in Ashland, WI. I've been a practicing dentist in Ashland for 26 years. It is my understanding that you are among a handful of legislators who currently serve in leadership in the state assembly and, as such, you can have an influence regarding what audits the state will conduct.

The purpose of this letter is to request the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) to conduct an audit of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) dental HMO program. Currently, the HMO program only impacts four counties in the state (Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties). Under the HMO program, the state contracts with medical HMOs in exchange for a "promise" by the HMOs to take care of the dental care needs for their enrollees; the state appears to be paying the medical HMOs somewhere between \$4.50 and \$5.50 per month per enrollee in exchange for this "promise". Given the enrollment numbers of Medicaid recipients in these four counties, the dental-specific costs associated with the state's contracts with medical HMOs end up costing the state approximately \$10 million each year.

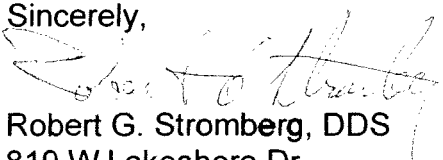
The Audit Bureau should create a complete review of the program; it is my understanding that after the medical HMOs take their "administrative fee" (which may be as much as 35% of the total contract), they pass the responsibility of providing the dental care on to a dental managed care organization that, in turn, takes another cut (because they actually do administer the program). The dental managed care organization then contracts with individual dentists. The payments to individual dentists are drastically reduced because the other two entities have taken out administrative fees without actually providing care in return. By the time the state's payments reach the individual dentist (who is actually absorbing the cost of the dental care treatment), the payments are even lower than what they are in the dental fee-for-service Medicaid program. As such, more and more dentists are dropping out and fewer patients are being seen and the state is still paying the medical HMO as if it is living up to its promise of providing dental care to their enrollees.

The HMOs continue to argue that managed care delivery system is working well for dentistry and yet my colleagues in those areas of the state are telling very different stories. While it is clear that the fee-for-service program for dental Medicaid is not perfect, at least under the fee-for-service model, the state doesn't pay a dentist until AFTER the dentist has actually provided the care. There are detailed utilization records available under the state's fee-for-service program. In contrast, under the HMO model, the state is paying the medical HMOs up-front for dental care without expecting any detailed documentation or records to verify what dental services (if any) the HMOs are actually providing in exchange for the payments they are receiving from the state. It has been extremely difficult for organized dentistry (or any other entity) to get the data from either DHFS, or the individual HMOs, regarding the state's financial arrangements with the HMOs. More importantly, requests for the actual types and frequencies of individual dental procedures that are performed under the HMO system have gone unanswered.

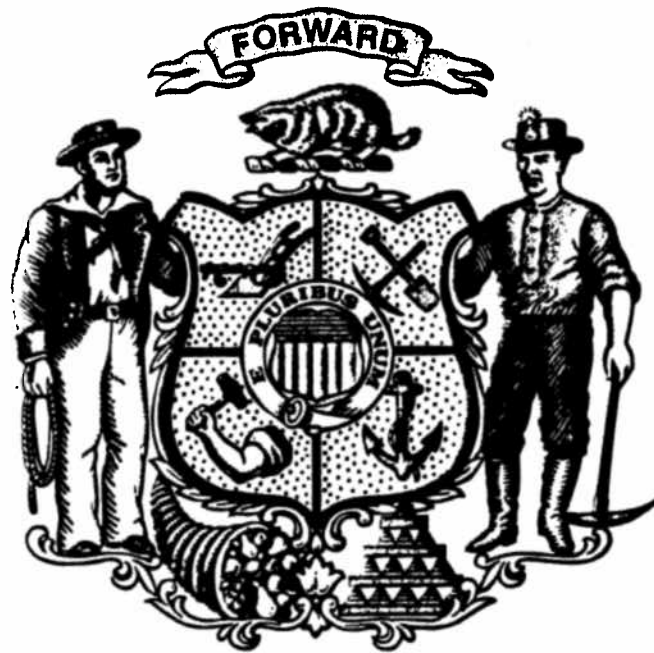
It is my hope that you, as a member of legislative leadership, will see the need to conduct an audit of the state's dental HMO program. At the very least, the state should demand more thorough recordkeeping of the types and frequencies of dental services that Medicaid recipients are receiving in exchange for the \$10 million the state pays out to the medical HMOs. As a practicing dentist and as a concerned taxpayer, I think the state should only contract with entities that can provide clinical data as to the services they are actually providing in exchange for receiving state-funded contracts.

Please look into this and let me know whether or not you plan to pursue this request.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Stromberg, DDS  
819 W Lakeshore Dr.  
Ashland, WI 54806





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 31, 2005

Representative David Cullen  
216 North, P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Cullen:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

## Joint Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 31, 2005

Representative Dan Meyer  
306 East, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Meyer:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 31, 2005

Representative Gary E. Sherman  
320 West, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Sherman:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

February 1, 2005

Senator Bob Jauch  
130 South, P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Jauch:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

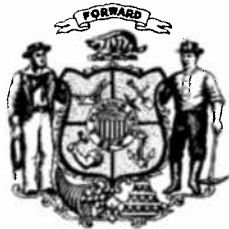
Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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HAND DELIVERED

February 2, 2005

The Honorable Sue Jeskewitz  
Wisconsin Assembly  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708-8592

Dear Sue,

At the request of a constituent, I am writing to urge you to use your authority as co-chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to call for an audit on the Department of Transportation's contracting policies and practices. As you are probably well aware, the Department has fallen under heavy public and media scrutiny since reports were released detailing inefficient and wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars by DOT.

I understand that the Legislative Audit Bureau is currently undertaking a number of other audits, which are consuming a lot of their time and resources. I commend those efforts including the audits of the W-2 Program and the State Fleet.

Still, I would hope that you take my request under serious deliberation. This issue raises questions about the integrity of government officials that are central to the success of our system of government.

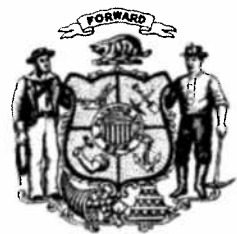
Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Karl Van Roy  
State Representative  
90<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

**Joint Audit Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs:  
State Senator Carol Roessler  
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

February 3, 2005

Representative Karl Van Roy  
123 West, P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Van Roy:

We received the request that you recently submitted to the Joint Audit Committee. This letter serves as confirmation of that request.

Each request submitted receives serious consideration. As conscientious legislators, we all welcome new ways to do things less expensively or more efficiently. We, as co-chairs of the committee, aim to meet once a month to discuss all requests. Shortly after the meeting, one of us will follow-up with you directly to let you know the status of your request.

Thank you again for your request and we will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Senator Carol Roessler  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Co-chairperson  
Joint Legislative Audit Committee