

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Education
(SC-Ed)**

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

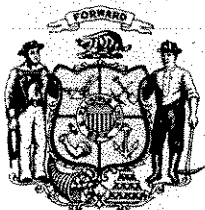
**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **05hr_sb0008_SC-Ed_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)
RE: Paper Ballot for SB 6

Please consider the following bill and vote on the motion below. Return this ballot to Senator Luther Olsen, Room 5 South, no later than 3:30pm (today), January 19, 2005. Committee members' ballots not received by the deadline will be marked as not voting.

Senate Bill 6:

Relating to: the number of pupils eligible to participate in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program
Introduced by Senators Darling, Plale, Kanavas, Stepp, Reynolds and Lazich; cosponsored by Representatives Vukmir, Fields, Ziegelbauer, Huebsch, Montgomery, McCormick, Nischke, Stone, Jeskewitz, Nass, Honadel, Gottlieb, Towns, Vrakas, Kaufert, Hundertmark, Gundrum, Ott, Wood and Gunderson

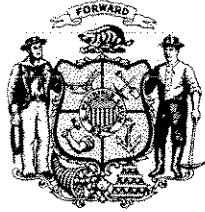
Please consider the following motion:

- Moved by Senator Olsen that SENATE BILL 6 be recommended for PASSAGE:

Aye _____ No _____

Signature _____

Senator Luther Olsen



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Alberta Darling, Member, Senate Committee on Education

FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)

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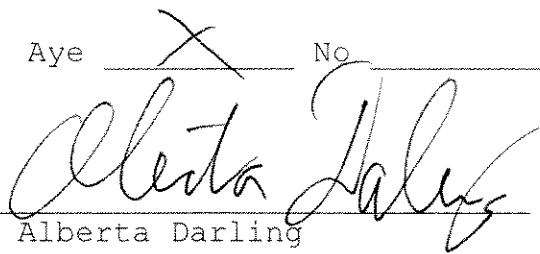
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Please consider the following motion:

- Moved by Senator Olsen that SENATE BILL 6 be recommended for PASSAGE:

Aye X No

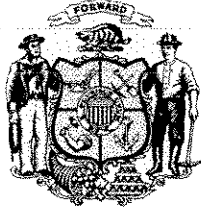
Signature _____



Senator Alberta Darling

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Sheila Harsdorf, Member, Senate Committee on Education

FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)

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Please consider the following motion:

- Moved by Senator Olsen that SENATE BILL 6 be recommended for PASSAGE:

Aye No

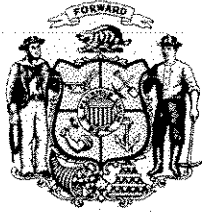
Signature



Senator Sheila Harsdorf

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Glenn Grothman, Member, Senate Committee on Education

FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)

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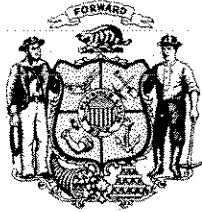
Aye X No

Signature _____

Glenn Grothman
Senator Glenn Grothman

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Robert Jauch, Member, Senate Committee on Education
FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)
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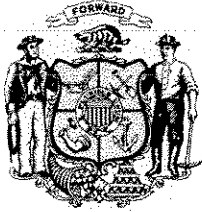
Aye _____ No X

Signature _____


Senator Robert Jauch

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Jon Erpenbach, Member, Senate Committee on Education

FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)

RE: Paper Ballot for SB 6

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Please consider the following motion:

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Aye _____

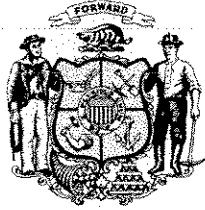
No _____

Signature _____

Senator Jon Erpenbach

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882



Wisconsin State Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Dave Hansen, Member, Senate Committee on Education
FR: Senator Luther Olsen, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
DT: January 19, 2005 (hand delivered 11:00 A.M.)
RE: Paper Ballot for SB 6

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Please consider the following motion:

- Moved by Senator Olsen that SENATE BILL 6 be recommended for PASSAGE:

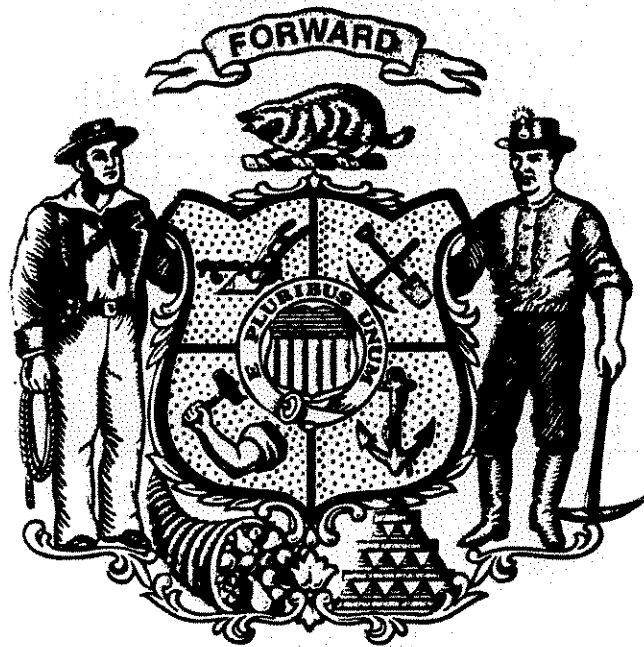
Aye _____ No

Signature _____

Senator Dave Hansen

STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 □ Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882





Register in favor

Memo

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Members of the Assembly Committee on Education Reform

FROM: Joan Hansen, Director of Tax and Corporate Policy

DATE: January 18, 2005

RE: 2005 Assembly Bill 3 and 2005 Senate Bill 6

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) strongly supports companion bills AB 3 and SB 6 co-sponsored by Senator Alberta Darling and Representative Vukmir. The bills provide a one-year reprieve from the enrollment cap for the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) and in future years, limit the number of pupils who may attend to the 2005-06 numbers.

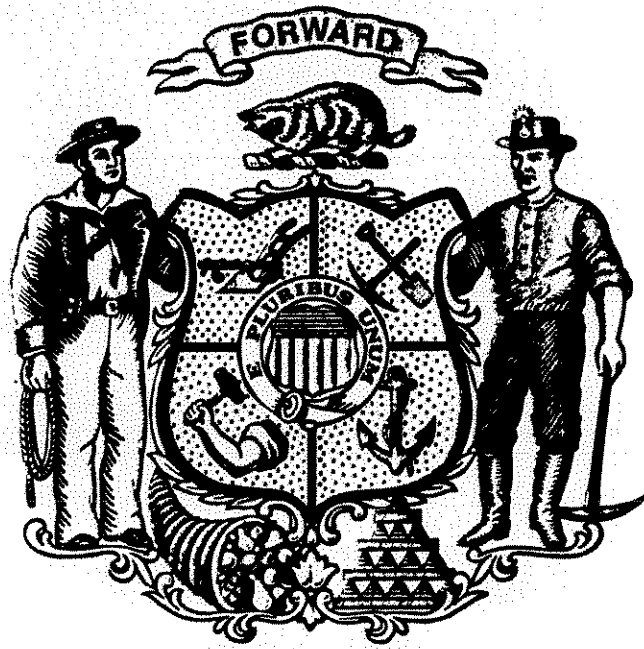
The MPCP voucher system is effective and has provided educational opportunities previously unavailable for many of Wisconsin's children, especially those who are economically disadvantaged.

WMC has long supported educational choice for parents and students. All parents must be given the tools necessary to ensure that their child receives a quality education as well as the opportunity to simply address their families' personal needs.

Temporarily removing the cap will not dismantle public education, but will continue to empower parents and communities, and allow them to choose the best educational opportunities to fit specific needs. Contrarily, not loosening or eliminating the caps, will certainly hurt some families who would no longer be able to attend the school of their choice and/or keep those who wish to attend a private school from being admitted altogether.

The children who are Wisconsin's future leaders, parents and employees deserve the best educational opportunities available to them upon entering the workforce. The flexibility of the voucher program has provided this opportunity. It promotes innovative approaches that empower teachers and school boards, and encourages competition and creativity in teaching. As artificial caps begin to hinder this significant progress, they should be greatly liberalized or eliminated permanently in the future.

For these reasons, WMC urges the Committees to support AB 3 and SB 6.



Opposed

AB3/SB6
Relating to the number of pupils in MPCP

Testimony of Sam Carmen
Executive Director, Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
January 18, 2005

Notwithstanding challenges and litigation the Milwaukee school voucher program has operated every year for nearly fifteen years, since the 1990/1991 school year. During that time, the program has been funded through a mix of State tax dollars derived from general school aids and reductions to aids which would have otherwise been paid to Milwaukee Public Schools. During the past fourteen years hundreds of millions tax dollars have been paid out with virtually no accountability to the taxpayers of Wisconsin.

If the threshold enrollment number is increased there is no doubt, under current funding provisions, more tax dollars will be needed including general fund expenditures. That means more tax dollars with extraordinarily little oversight and accountability in a time we all acknowledge requires fiscal restraint.

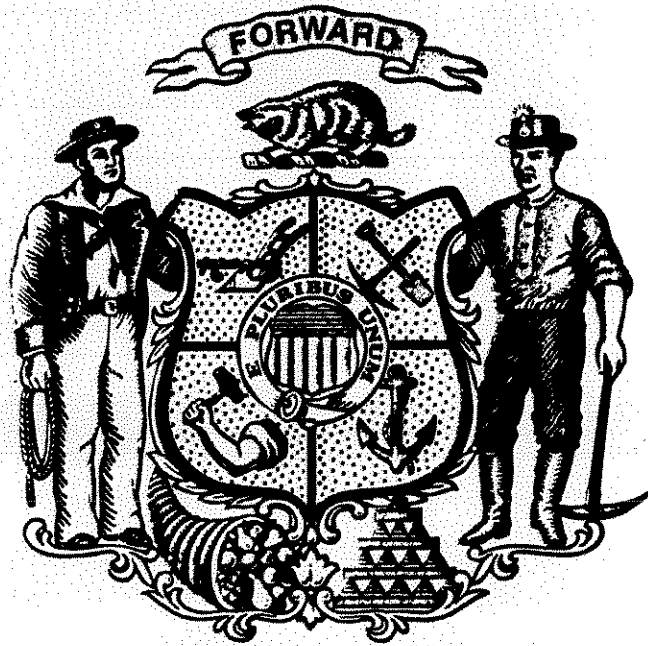
As you know, in 1999, under Act 9, the legislature enacted changes that completely excluded pupils enrolled in the voucher program from being counted in MPS membership. In 2001 Act 16, the legislature again modified the financing arrangements of the voucher program. These changes have resulted in a funding flaw that costs the property taxpayers in the City of Milwaukee millions of dollars per year, presently, in a combination of aid reductions and levying through the property tax increases in the City of Milwaukee.

An expanded voucher program exacerbates the City of Milwaukee tax burden at the same time reductions in state aid creates a greater reliance on property taxes to fund MPS.

If you are interested in modifying the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, I suggest you:

- Fix the voucher program financing to reduce the burden on the City of Milwaukee taxpayer to fund two school systems, MPS and the private schools.
- Consider student health and safety by requiring background checks and applying the same standards to all employees in the same manner required of MPS employees.
- Require schools in the program not discriminate against students and employees,
- Require that schools in the program have accountability to the taxpayers by requiring public disclosure of fiscal performance and open records.
- Require that school in the program provide rigorous education programs demonstrated by implementing the same testing and accountability regime as you require of all other publicly funded schools in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your attention.





Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

January 18, 2005

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 3: Milwaukee Parental Choice Program Enrollment Limit

Assembly Bill 3 would modify the student enrollment limit for the Milwaukee parental choice program. The bill was introduced and referred to the Joint Committee on Finance on January 11, 2005.

BACKGROUND

Under the Milwaukee parental choice program, state funds are used to pay for the cost of children from low-income families in the City of Milwaukee to attend, at no charge, private schools located in the City. Pupil participation is limited to pupils in grades K-12 with family incomes less than 175 percent of the federal poverty level. The limit on the number of pupils who can participate in the program is 15 percent of the MPS membership. In 2004-05, this limit is approximately 14,750 pupils.

If the total number of available spaces in the private schools is greater than the maximum number of pupils allowed to participate, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) must prorate the number of spaces available at each participating private school. If a private school rejects an applicant due to lack of space, the pupil may transfer his or her application to another participating private school that has space available.

For each pupil attending a choice school, DPI pays the parent or guardian an amount that is equal to the lesser of: (a) the private school's operating and debt service cost per pupil related to educational programming; or (b) the amount paid per pupil in the previous school year adjusted by

the percentage change in the general school aids appropriations from the previous school year to the current school year. If that percent change is a negative number, however, the per pupil payment does not change from the prior year. The maximum per pupil payment under choice program in 2004-05 is \$5,943.

The estimated cost of the payments from the choice program appropriation is partially offset by a reduction in the general school aids otherwise paid to MPS by an amount equal to 45% of the total cost of the choice program. Under revenue limits, MPS may levy property taxes to make up for the amount of aid lost due to this reduction. As a result, the general fund pays for 55% of the choice program and MPS for 45%.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Under Assembly Bill 3, there would be no limit on enrollment in the choice program for the 2005-06 school year. Beginning in the 2006-07 school year, the enrollment limit for the choice program would be set at the number of pupils who attended choice schools in the 2005-06 school year.

FISCAL EFFECT

Potential Effect on the General Fund. Because the state no longer funds two-thirds of partial school revenues, any decrease to a school district's revenue limit would no longer result in a reduction to general aids funding equal to two-thirds of the decrease. For example, if MPS enrollment were to decline as a result of children enrolling in the choice program who would otherwise enroll in MPS, the general school aids appropriation would not be automatically reduced as a result of the decline. If additional students enroll in the choice program, the state would pay 55% of the payment amount for each pupil. Thus, under current law, to the extent that the change proposed in the bill results in more students entering the choice program, general fund expenditures would increase.

Determining the potential increase in expenditures in the 2005-07 biennium under the bill depends on two factors which are unknown at this time: (a) the number of pupils who would attend a choice school in 2005-06; and (b) the increase in general school aids in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Since the expansion of the choice program to include sectarian schools became effective in 1998-99, the average annual increase in enrollment in the program has been approximately 1,500 students. Assuming that 1,500 additional pupils attend the choice program in 2005-06 under the bill, and that base level funding is maintained for general school aids in the 2005-07 biennium, the state share of program expenditures would increase by an estimated \$4.9 million GPR in each year of the biennium. If funding for general school aids is increased in the 2005-07 biennium, the fiscal effect of the bill would increase by the same percentage as any increases to general school aids.

Potential Effect on MPS Revenue Limits. Under the provisions of the bill, if additional pupils enroll in the choice program that otherwise would have enrolled in MPS, the revenue limit for MPS would be lower than it would have been. Under revenue limits, one-third of the number of choice pupils that do not attend MPS would be reflected immediately under the three-year rolling average of enrollment. Revenue limits for MPS would fully reflect the loss of additional choice pupils only in the third year. If, for example, 1,500 pupils had been fully phased out for MPS revenue limit purposes in 2004-05 under the provisions of the bill, it is estimated that the MPS revenue limit would have been reduced by \$13.5 million compared to what the revenue limit would have been had those 1,500 pupils enrolled in MPS, had those changes applied in that year.

If the 1,500 additional pupils would otherwise have enrolled in non-MPS schools, then there would not be any effect on MPS revenue limits.

Potential Effect on the Distribution of General School Aids. Because general school aids are calculated using prior year membership and shared cost data, the loss of additional pupils from MPS to the choice program would not directly affect the amount of equalization aid received by MPS until the next year. Once these pupils and their related shared costs would be fully excluded from MPS for general school aid purposes, assuming all other aid factors are unchanged, there would be aid shifts under the equalization formula. Under the hypothetical example that 1,500 pupils would have enrolled in the choice program rather than MPS for the 2004-05 aid calculation under the bill, it is estimated that aid to MPS would have decreased by \$15.8 million and the aid to the other 425 school districts would have increased, in total, by \$11.8 million, had those changes applied in that aid year.

These aid changes would reflect the effects of three factors. First, the increase in choice membership would have resulted in a larger 45% aid reduction for MPS under the current choice financing structure. Second, membership and shared costs for MPS would have been reduced. Because MPS receives positive aid at the tertiary level of the equalization aid formula, these reductions would have resulted in MPS receiving less aid under the equalization aid formula. Third, because membership and shared costs statewide would have decreased as a result of the MPS changes, the secondary guarantee and tertiary guarantee would have been slightly higher, which would have increased the aid received by most other districts at those levels of the formula.

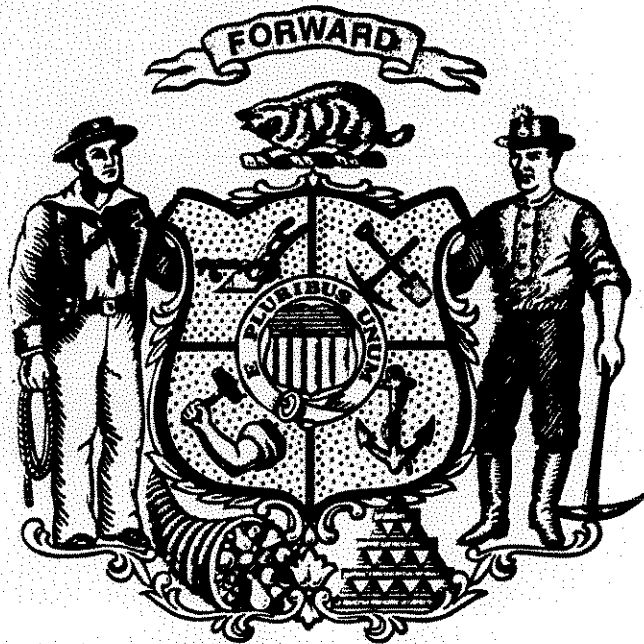
If the 1,500 additional pupils would otherwise have enrolled in non-MPS schools, then the only effect on general school aids would have been an increase in the aid reduction for MPS in 2004-05 of \$4.0 million, had those changes applied in that aid year.

Potential Effect on MPS School Property Tax Levy. With respect to the MPS property tax levy, if 1,500 pupils that otherwise would have attended MPS had been fully phased out for MPS revenue limit and equalization aid purposes in 2004-05, it is estimated that the MPS revenue limit would have been reduced by \$13.5 million and that aid to MPS would have decreased by \$15.8 million compared to the calculations that would have resulted had those 1,500 pupils enrolled in MPS. Under revenue limits, MPS would have the authority to levy to replace any loss of aid within

the new limit. Thus, the MPS levy could have increased by up to \$2.3 million in 2004-05 under this scenario, based on the decision of the Board of School Directors of MPS.

If the 1,500 additional pupils would have, instead, otherwise attended non-MPS schools, then the change in general school aids would have been the \$4.0 million reduction noted above, and the MPS levy could have increased by up to \$4.0 million, depending on the decision of the Board of School Directors of MPS.

Prepared by: Russ Kava



A QUALITY
EDUCATION
FOR
EVERY
CHILD



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

January 18, 2005

*Register
as opposed*

The Honorable Luther Olsen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Leah Vukmir
Assembly Education Reform Committee
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708


Dear Senator Olsen and Representative Vukmir:

I am writing to express the department's opposition to 2005 Assembly Bill 3. We believe a more comprehensive proposal that would address both the needs of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program's constituents and public school students would be preferable to a temporary fix.

As you know, the department is obligated to implement a proration method under current state law. If this legislation passes we will still be obligated to implement an enrollment cap after the 2005-06 school year. Thus, seeking a more permanent solution now is preferred.

I hope to work with you and the authors of the bill on the issues I have raised. If you have any questions about the department's position, please contact the department legislative liaison, Jennifer Kammerud, at 608/266-7073.

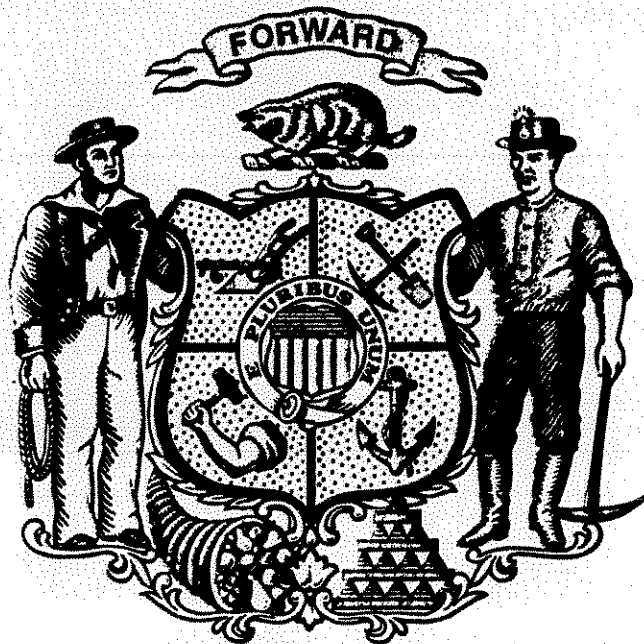
Sincerely,

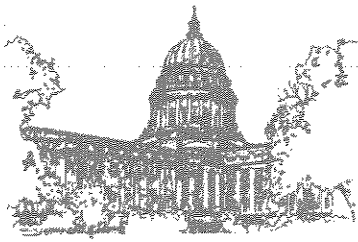


Tony Evers
Deputy State Superintendent

cc: Joint Finance Committee
Assembly Education Reform Committee
Senate Education Committee

TE:jak





Wisconsin
State
Assembly

Christine Sinicki
State Representative

**Statement to the Members of the Senate Education Committee and the Assembly
Education Reform Committee regarding SB 6/AB 3, 2005-2006 Session**
January 18, 2005

Members of the joint committees, thank you for your patience in accepting my written testimony in lieu of personal comments today. I regret I cannot be with you during this hearing.

My brief summary of these bills is this: they do not propose a reprieve; they propose an expansion of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP). At the end of the proposed yearlong repeal of the MPCP cap, enrollment in the program will not return to its current level. It will remain at its new, higher, expanded level.

Advocates of public education must stop agreeing to the redefinition of the vocabulary used by proponents to describe their program. This is not a choice program; it is a voucher program that gives public tax money to private entities. MPCP schools are not private schools; they are public/private schools, and should be subject to full public scrutiny. And I repeat, these bills do not offer a mere reprieve; they offer a way to expand the MPCP program.

And, finally, these bills do not offer a neutral fiscal effect, as its lobbyists insist; they increase costs in a biennium when every other state program will sustain further cuts to its core services. What qualifies the voucher program to expand when every other state program must downsize? What makes this program exempt from the hardships faced by the constituencies of all other state programs?

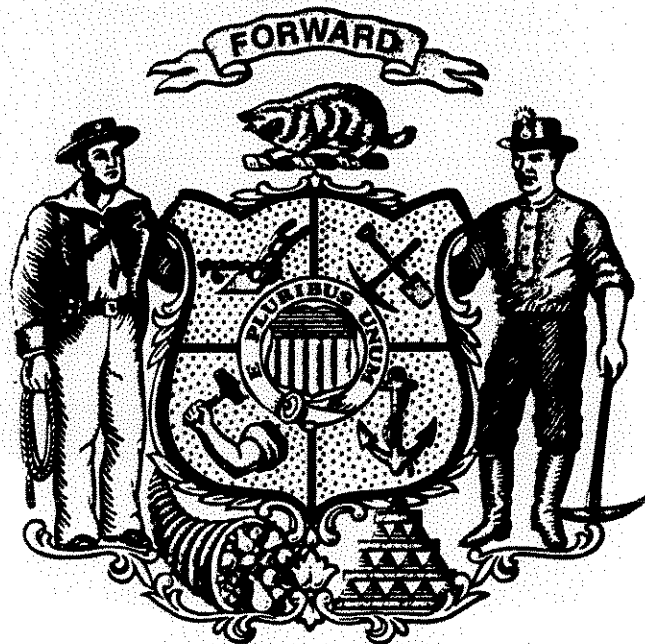
The sense of entitlement exhibited by the proponents of this program again leaves me stunned. To MPCP lobbyists and proponents: you've known since this program began the enrollment cap could be reached, and yet you behave like the cap is a new form of discrimination concocted to punish the poor families of Milwaukee. It is you who have misinformed and misled your program's families to believe this cap will be lifted.

Above all, this cap will not be lifted as a result of demands based on an unjustified sense of being a protected group, exempt from the fiscal hardships facing all other constituencies in this state.

You must engage with Governor Doyle in good faith negotiations to improve the educational lot of all Milwaukee and Wisconsin students. The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program is a privilege; it is not an entitlement.

Thank you.

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MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JENNIFER MORALES
Board of School Directors
3222 North Cambridge Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
(414) 964-9469
e-mail: jemora@execpc.com

MEMORANDUM

Date: 18 January 2005
To: Senate and Assembly Education Committee Members
From: Jennifer Morales *Jem*
Re: Senate Bill 6 and Assembly Bill 3

*Register
in opposition
submitted testimony*

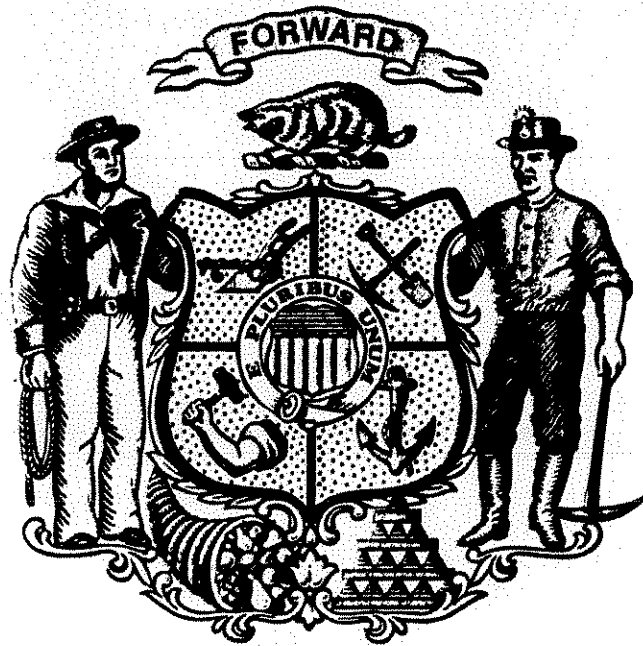


I am writing to register my opposition to SB-6 and AB 3. Although I'm unable to attend your joint hearing today, I would like to offer a couple of points against these bills to expand the Milwaukee school voucher program.

First, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors' most recent action concerning the Milwaukee voucher program was to take an official stand against expansion of the program. We also have, as part of recent actions outlining our legislative agenda, urged the state Legislature to address failings in both the finance systems for the voucher program and for K-12 education more generally.

Second, the bills you are considering today to expand the voucher program will increase property taxes in Milwaukee, and have an adverse fiscal impact on all school districts around the state. In my conversations with residents around the state, I consistently hear that Wisconsinites want more accountability for their public tax dollar, not less. These bills will take money out of the pockets of workers and taxpayers around the state for the expansion of a totally unaccountable program.

I urge you to consider the wishes of Milwaukee residents and taxpayers across the state, and vote down this rushed legislation to expand the unaccountable voucher program. Thank you.



WISCONSIN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

Affiliated with the National Education Association

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*

Written Testimony Submitted by
Wisconsin Education Association Council
Joint Public Hearing of Senate Committee on Education
and Assembly Committee on Education Reform
January 18, 2005

OPPOSE AB 3/SB 6

WEAC Opposes Lifting the Milwaukee Voucher School Enrollment Cap

WEAC strongly opposes AB 3 and SB 6, bills that would lift the private school voucher enrollment cap.

WEAC agrees with Governor Doyle, who urges a broader focus on improving all schools. When Governor Doyle vetoed bills expanding the Milwaukee voucher program last year, he clearly stated that any legislation "should be considered as part of a larger reform initiative that addresses the needs of all Milwaukee children, including the vast majority that will remain in the public schools."

Private school vouchers are funded 45% by the Milwaukee property tax payers and 55% from state general purpose revenue. Governor Doyle pointed out that every additional 1,000 students who would attend private voucher schools due to repeal of the enrollment cap "would cost Milwaukee taxpayers an additional \$2.7 million and state taxpayers another \$3.3 million." The DPI fiscal note cites an annual increase of 14% over the past two years or 1,500-1,800 pupils per year. To lift the voucher program cap for a year for 1,500 pupils would cost nearly \$9 million dollars-- \$4.9 million from the state and over \$4 million in an increase to Milwaukee property tax payers.

According to the Milwaukee Public Schools proposed Fiscal Year 2005 Property Tax Levy, voucher pupils receive a disproportionate amount of the Milwaukee property owners' taxes. Seventy per cent of the property tax goes to MPS operations while serving 85% of the students; the voucher program receives 18% of the property tax while serving less than 15% of the pupils. Milwaukee property taxpayers pay more per pupil in the experimental voucher program without any requirement of accountability to them, the taxpayers.

It is ironic that Milwaukee Public Schools have been deeply cutting staff and programs for Milwaukee's children—over 1,000 positions in the last two years--while some legislators want to increase property taxes to expand the voucher program, a program that has cost the taxpayers \$300 million and provides no evidence of student performance.

WEAC believes the Milwaukee Parental School Choice Program should be accountable to the state's taxpayers as well as parents and the community. Accountability measures for voucher schools should be the same that are required of every other school receiving taxpayer funds.

Stan Johnson, President
Michael A. Butera, Executive Director

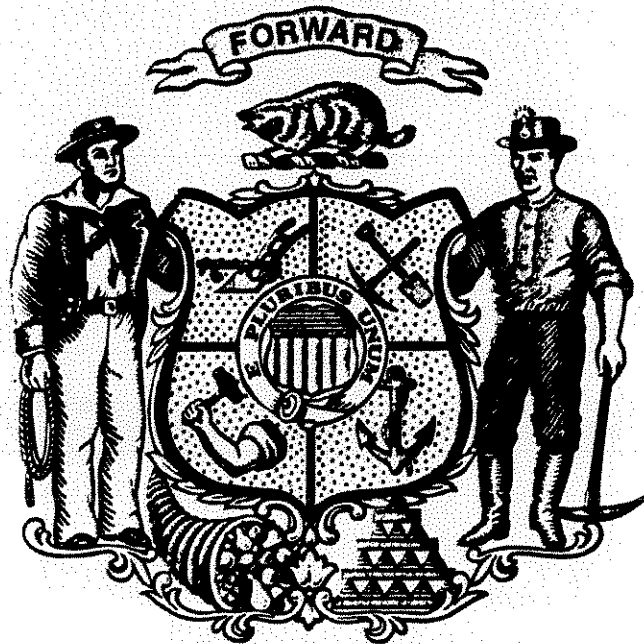
Voucher schools should participate in the same state-level testing that is required of other publicly-funded schools, including the requirements of the so-called No Child Left Behind federal law.

Wisconsin's teachers and staff know what makes a great school: smaller class sizes, qualified teachers, up-to-date materials and parental involvement. At a time of severe fiscal crisis, amid calls for tax freezes and across-the-board cuts, why expand and fund a controversial and yet unproven program that imposes new taxes?

For more information:

If you have any comments or questions regarding this statement, please contact Michael Walsh, WEAC Government Relations Specialist, at 800-362-8034 or 276-7711 or at walshm@weac.org.

*Every kid
deserves a
Great School!*





SENATOR JEFF PLAILE
SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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**Testimony of Senator Jeff Plale
Assembly Bill 3/ Senate Bill 6
Milwaukee Parental Choice Cap Reprieve**

Thank you Chairperson Olsen and Chairperson Vukmir for your timely consideration of this bill.

As many of you are aware there is a significant crisis looming in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. Without swift action by the legislature and Governor Doyle, seats in choice schools will be rationed beginning in February 2005. Until that action is taken, I believe it is unfair to punish the children and families who have built their lives around the schools they currently attend.

The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program has always, and will always, be steeped in politics. Certainly, there are deeply held convictions on both sides of the issue. This bill seeks to put all that aside. This bill is absolutely NOT a long-term or permanent solution. In fact, it's not a solution at all. We hope it will be an impetus to bring the relevant parties to the table to work toward a real and lasting compromise that benefits all Milwaukee school children. This legislation is only a reprieve. Not a reprieve for the legislature, but a reprieve for participating families.

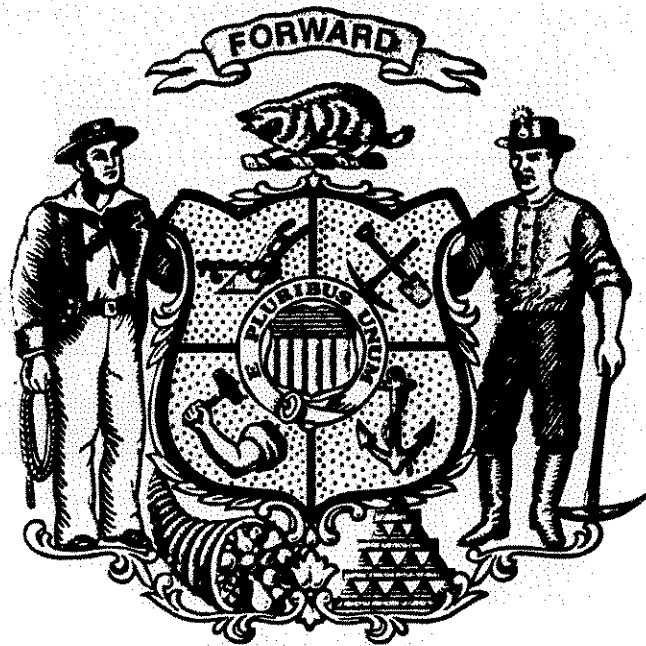
There are many larger issues at play in the debate over the future of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and Milwaukee Public Schools. Those are issues that need to be addressed quickly. However, it is a tragic disservice to allow students who are learning and growing in the MPCP to be cast to the wind, while those negotiations take place. Reasonable people can disagree about this issue, but no reasonable person wants to see a child hurt because the wheels of compromise turn slowly.

The legislature has recognized the need for compromise in this kind of situation in the past. During the 2003 legislative session, a similar situation presented itself at the Woodlands School. At this charter school, enrollment was reaching its cap. Despite the fact there was, and is, considerable debate over the future of charter schools, the legislature and Governor saw the need to protect students at the school from being penalized by the looming cap. Legislation was passed to ensure that no student would lose his or her place at the school, while the issue was debated here at the capitol.

Again, this bill is nothing more than a safety net. I urge the legislature and the Governor's office as well as advocates on both sides of this issue to begin a genuine, good-faith dialogue about the issues affecting education in the City of Milwaukee. The more quickly a comprehensive resolution is reached, the better the end result will be for all of us and, more importantly, for the children and families we represent.

Thank you for your time.





Testimony -

Senator Darling - 2nd to testify

gather name Sen Plate - staff rep 4th to testify submitted written

Rep. Fields - 3rd to testify

Rep. Vukmir - first

Katy Vencus^(sp)

Sen Hanson - asked about veto

② asked about funding

Rep Lehman - is there any language comit forced to have a compromise on a cap? Not a blanket enrollment

② Racine perspective; good schools got full developed waiting lists; Racine did a "everybody can't get what they want" why does Choice get a break?

Seems unreasonable that there isn't compromised language

Sen. Jandl -

① we all care about kids - legislation is preferred for some kids, not public school kids. you want to remove "fiscal" limits for some kids but not others

Rep Fields said why hurt a group trying to do something

② Have you tried to compromise? w/out choice

Leah ~~w~~ Tried to lift the cap.
Good for competition

③ 9.3 million will cost MPS - how will this group be accommodated?

Alberta - Sage, neighborhood ?

Ripwood - Fiscal note vs. WEAC

1500 to choice ; cost to Ripwood's district \$4.9 mill
fiscal bureau said it would benefit out of MPS districts
does it really cost my district more?

Testimony ⑤ Henry Tyson - St. Marcus Lutheran School in favor
principal → 270 students
220 in choice

⑥ Jesse Jones w/ female speaker
Javach. made a comment about transportation
direct to Tyson

current students get 1st priority ; siblings get 2nd,
3rd to open seats

1-4 students lost a year would've been filled

⑦ Sam Larmer - MIA ~~Assoc~~ Teachers ^{Educators} Assoc
submit written testimony
→ opposed

Alberta - 63¢ per dollar going to pension and benefits
40% grad rate for African American unacceptable
look forward to working w/ you

response - grad rates increasing

63% of dollars because of OEW? (How about Crede or
healthcare)

Rep. Wood - are you in support of open enrollment?

response - some demerit on greater emphasis
on neighborhood schools

Rep. Wood - support open enrollment but not for choice?

- didn't answer it

Wether - what is your main concern?

ability of taxpayers to pay

Wether - has operation gotten smaller in relation to students

Russ - ability to levy does not change; but board does
not want to do it

Leah Vukmir - # of kids leaving the district

300 students left in 2003

what is the union doing to address this

8

Tim Sheehy - critical to Milw prosperity

Does not view this legislation as veto bait

Jawek - what about a compromise

Harmon - accountability

9

Basimah Abdullah -

Give the lowest on the totem pole a better chance

Wether - what is your ultimate goal?

- let's not lose staff

Wether - if we don't help cap - schools will shut down

15

Donna Schmidt - Prince of Peace school -
do something

⑪ Martha ~~Smith~~ - Freeman

Janet - what do you think the solution is for the 9 mill?
her response → an out culture discussion

⑫ Terry Brown - St Anthony School - President
Severe poverty in homes we serve

⑬ Howard Fuller - ACE (Alliance for Choices in Education)

gives an opportunity to walk towards a solution

Lehman - where did 15% come from?

do you have a sufficient vision / model for choice
(a suggested good of 7%)

let's get it out there enough so we don't have to come
year after year

⑭ Duane Mosse Sr -

⑮ Jeff Monday - Messmer Catholic Schools

⑯ Dennis Alexander - see hearing slip

90-95% advance

" attendance

K-6 participation program for parents

K-2 Two teachers in classroom

Event @ schools to community

\$5900 / student

parent coordinator

always done testing / Iowa / 3rd Grade / Tennessee

95% graduation rate

Children come to choice schools far behind up to
2-3 grades

Children relate to heads of school

Never created to tear down MPS, created to
make MPS better