

State of Wisconsin  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Co-Chairs*

**FRED A. RISSER**  
President, State Senate

**STEVE WIECKERT**  
Representative, State Assembly



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF**

**Terry C. Anderson**

*Director*

**Laura D. Rose**

*Deputy Director*

October 1, 2008

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Governor Doyle:

On behalf of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families, we respectfully request that you include the provisions of 2007 Assembly Bill 700, relating to children with severe disabilities or who are involved in multiple systems of care, or both, and their families and making an appropriation, in the 2009-11 Executive Budget Bill.

Coordinated services teams are an effective method of collaboration in local communities. The Special Committee has heard testimony regarding the benefits of a coordinated services teams approach for families that include children who are involved in multiple systems of care, in addition to children with severe disabilities.

Additionally, using coordinated services teams decreases the need for out-of-home placements, which are expensive and which should be utilized only in cases where it is the least restrictive alternative for the child. The Special Committee believes that the \$1,466,000 in funding requested in 2007 Assembly Bill 700 is essential in ensuring that the initiative expands to additional counties in the state, so that more families can benefit from this successful, collaborative approach.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

---

Senator Lena Taylor, Co-Chair  
Special Committee on Strengthening  
Wisconsin Families

---

Representative Steve Kestell, Co-Chair  
Special Committee on Strengthening  
Wisconsin Families

LT:SK:ksm

cc: Secretary Reggie Bicha, Department of Children and Families  
Secretary Karen Timberlake, Department of Health Services  
Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, Department of Public Instruction