



WISCONSIN ORGANIZATION for ASIAN AMERICANS

P.O. Box 68
Madison, WI 53701-0068

January 26, 2007

The Honorable James E. Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
119 East, State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

DRAFT

Dear Governor Doyle:

A representative of the Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans has participated with other organizational members of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools for many years. He recommended endorsing the basic thrust of WAES efforts in developing an alternative to the school-funding formula currently used to allocate state funds to counties for public education. We do so because public education at the K-12 level is crucial to post-high school academic/vocational achievement.

As you pointed out when you spoke to the WOAA semiannual meeting in early October last year, Asians and Asian Americans value education highly as a mechanism important to community participation and contribution to society as a whole. You noted that Asian students strive to do their academic best to prepare for later competition in academic, scientific, business, and other communities.

An alternative school funding formula is needed because the current one is faulty. It is based on an assumption that persons living in counties with high property valuations are better able to support K-12 education through local tax levies than those in counties with lower valuations; therefore, state fund allocations are computed at a lower rate. Not only is that assumption incorrect since family income is not related to property valuation, the formula does not take into consideration differential educational needs, such as rural-urban distances required for school attendance, public transportation availability, lack of proficiency in English, special educational needs, and students with disabilities. At the same time that state funds are more equitably allocated, care must be taken to assure that local property tax levies are not increased (lowered, if possible) and local control over public education continues.

Thank you for considering our request. We are certain that you will continue to advocate for public education and for our state's children as you have in the past.

Sincerely yours,

WOAA Co-Chair

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