

Governor Jim Doyle  
P.O. Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

January 24, 2007

Dear Governor Doyle:

The NAACP is a partner in the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. My members know that the educations and the futures of kids in our communities and around the state are in great jeopardy because of the way we fund our public schools. Unless we do something now it will get even worse. We expect you to stand up for our children as you have in the past.

There is a great safety concern for our state and more funds are needed for Social Workers and Security Personnel as well as for smaller classes. Children with disabilities, children who do not speak English, and children coming from impoverished background need financial support. Please help rural districts with their transportation problems. Please support the Department of Public Instruction budget that has a plan to help fund small schools and districts who are losing students through no fault of their own.

Most importantly, I am asking that you take the lead in changing the school-funding system so that all schools have adequate funding to meet student needs. The committees, task forces and studies show there is a pressing need for comprehensive school finance reform. There are clear solutions to this problem, and it is time for our state government to take action.

As partner in WAES, the NAACP is committed to fighting for increased categorical aid to address the critical short-term needs in all school districts. At the same time, we urge you to work with us, other education stakeholders, and the Legislature to begin comprehensive reform of the school-funding system in 2007.

If we cannot adequately invest in our children, what kind of future can we expect for our state? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Ann Hamilton*

Jerry Ann Hamilton, President  
NAACP Milwaukee Branch

*Wendell J. Harris*

Wendell J. Harris, Chair Wisconsin  
State NAACP Education Committee

JAH/WJH/add