

Governor Jim Doyle
P.O. Box 79707
Madison WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle,

I am one of the founding members of The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), a broad-based, statewide, diverse coalition of school districts, teachers unions, parent groups, and civic and faith-based organizations. WAES members are committed to working for increased spending for transportation, special education, bilingual programs, SAGE, and small, rural districts. Our schools need this help immediately and we ask you to find the money to increase aid for these urgent needs.

As a member of WAES, I've organized a letter writing campaign here in Butternut which is part of a larger campaign throughout the state. Enclosed are letters from my community asking you change the current funding system. These letters come from senior citizens, parents, teachers, school board members and one student. These are ordinary people who, because of Butternut's long standing financial woes, are extremely knowledgeable on the subject of school funding and care deeply about their school and about education in general. I hope you will take the time to read their words as they are sincere and from the heart.

The people of Butternut would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election. You now have an unprecedented opportunity to redeem the evils of the Thompson administration and to leave in its place a legacy of hope, courage and integrity. Here in The North, support of public schools is a winning position. When I campaigned for our assemblyman Gary Sherman in 2004, people would initially express concern over his support of you with regard to the concealed carry law. Yet almost in the same breath these same people would add that they were voting for Mr. Sherman anyway because of his support of our schools. Even here, in a profoundly hunting oriented culture, schools still trump guns (or any other wedge issue) in the voting booth.

While there is considerable debate as to how to fix the school funding crisis, the lone area of consensus is that schools need more resources. It is my sincere hope that you will be brave and bold and propose comprehensive reform in this next budget. I know my other friends in WAES will ask you to support the DPI budget as a stop gap measure and I too would urge you as well. However, me and my fellow community members in Butternut, who are soon to lose our school (barring any miracles from Madison), keep our eyes on a larger prize. We'd like to spare other schools, communities and children the ordeal we've been living through for the past several years. When you propose this next budget, we hope you will be a hero.

I thank you for your time and past support of education.

Sincerely,

Kelly Meredith
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