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I am very concerned about the fate of Milwaukee's school children. Let me give an example. At an elementary school located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee, where the free and reduced lunch rate is 95%, the students have suffered through some tough times.

Last year, the school due to budget cuts, lost their art teacher and librarian. This fall, when their enrollment dropped below predicted, they had to choose between the Physical Education teacher and the Music teacher. The forecast for next year is as gloomy—the school will lose music, and their nurse will go to 3 hours a day.

The school is the most stable thing in the lives of many children. School should have the ability to help students out of their poverty and show them the world of possibilities. But these students, who have so little to begin with, suffer the most as the budget crisis in MPS and Wisconsin education continues.

Their parents are not adequate advocates for the school; their own lives are very problematic. Students start school carrying a burden of poor nutrition, lead poisoning, limited medical care, little early education, and too often neglect and/or abuse. But these are not throwaway children. Investing in their education pays many dividends to society later.

This school isn't asking for special treatment—though they probably deserve it. But let's design a system that includes the art, library, music, physical education, and health care for all schools.

I feel we are on the edge of a dangerous cliff. Wisconsin must put the financing of education of its students as the number one priority, or we will pay the price before the end of the decade.