



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY HEBL**  
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 4, 2005

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PRESS RELEASE

**HEBL URGES GOV. DOYLE TO PROTECT EDUCATION FUNDING, REPEAL QEO**

MADISON - Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) called on Governor Doyle to protect, and if possible increase, funding for vital education initiatives including SAGE, four-year-old kindergarten, and special education to promote the continued success of Sun Prairie schools and students across the state. Hebl stressed that, in spite of a tough budget picture, the state should maintain its commitment to these successful initiatives.

“SAGE, four-year-old kindergarten, and special education have all been tremendous resources for students and schools across the state,” Hebl said. “I know Governor Doyle is aware of the success of these programs, and despite another tough budget, I’ve asked him to protect these initiatives and even increase funding if possible for these vital programs.”

Hebl also asked that the Governor repeal QEO (Qualified Economic Offer) law, which restricts teacher’s collective bargaining rights.

“Wisconsin teacher salaries were 13th in the nation in 1992 and thanks to the QEO they’ve been on a long term decline ever since,” Hebl said. “It’s imperative that if we’re going to have world class schools, we must reward those who teach our children and encourage those who seek to do so in the future.”

Governor Doyle inherited a budget deficit of more than \$3 billion caused by years of big spending. Despite downsizing state government by 2,300 jobs en route to balancing the last budget, the 2005-06 budget already has an expected \$1.6 billion shortfall due to rising Medicaid costs, reduced revenue, and reduced funding from the federal government.

“We all must face the harsh realities of a tough budget cycle, but we cannot neglect our students and our educators. Governor Doyle shares this commitment and I am hopeful the budget will reflect these priorities,” Hebl said.

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