



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“INVEST IN WISCONSIN KIDS” TAX CREDIT PLAN INTRODUCED

Initiatives Will Raise Public and Private School Funds through Donations

Green Bay... Three Northeastern Wisconsin legislators unveiled a plan today to provide tax credits for educational expenses at public and private schools, as well as incentives for businesses who donate to school scholarship funds.

Representatives Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon), Karl Van Roy (R-Howard), and John Nygren (R-Marinette) unveiled their “Invest in Wisconsin Kids” plan with a group of education supporters, including Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmidt, Diocese of Green Bay Bishop David A. Zubik, and former Assembly Speaker John Gard.

“We’re introducing a proposal that will truly put families first,” said Montgomery. “Wisconsin has an opportunity to continue its leadership role in bringing affordable education to all families.”

The proposal will provide tax credits for families’ educational expenses, including those who pay tuition at independent schools—meaning more families can afford to send their children to the school that best fits their needs.

“Invest in Wisconsin Kids” follows a 1999 law passed by the Illinois state legislature, which enacted a state income tax credit for educational expenses, including tuition, and book and lab fees incurred on behalf of a K-12 student in a public or private school. New York and Minnesota also have long-standing traditions of tax credits for educational expenses.

“We’re looking at a win-win situation here,” said Nygren. “Parents will have more resources to provide their kids with the education that’s right for them. This is an initiative that encourages a greater investment in education for our kids.”

The second feature of the proposal will provide tax credits to businesses that contribute to scholarship funds set-up at both public and private schools.

Three states—Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Florida—already have laws in place providing tax credits to businesses that donate to scholarship funds. In Florida, the non-partisan Collins Center for Public Policy estimated that the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program could result in a \$600 million increase in statewide net revenue available for education over the next 10 years.

“Providing tax credits to companies that contribute to scholarship funds is a fantastic way to encourage investment in our state’s brightest young minds and our next generation of employees,” said Van Roy. “This plan will help more students get the education they may not otherwise be able to afford.”

The legislators indicated they hope to see the plan included in the State’s 2007-2009 biennial budget, and will be introducing the tax credit proposals for legislative review as early as next week.

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