



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

May 8, 2020

Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Mark Pocan
1421 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Bryan Steil
1408 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Glenn Grothman
1427 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ron Kind
1502 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Gallagher
1230 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

We write you today to request that you support and approve new funding for local school systems in the next COVID-19 supplemental appropriations bill. This federal allocation would include \$175 billion in Educational Stabilization Funds, distributed to the local level through the Title I formula. In addition, we ask Congress to provide \$13 billion for IDEA, \$12 billion in additional Title I program funding, \$2 billion for E-Rate, and emergency infrastructure funds designated for public schools.

According to early estimates, Wisconsin is forecasting a \$2 billion loss in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislative leaders have indicated there will likely be massive funding freezes in the second year of the fiscal biennium. These shortfalls will be devastating to Wisconsin's public schools. Estimates from the Learning Policy Institute project that Wisconsin will lose 11.7% of its public school teaching positions due to revenue losses from COVID-19. Based on figures from the WI Department of Public Instruction, this 11.7% reduction translates to 7,096 teaching positions that will be lost. This will undoubtedly increase classroom sizes, reduce programming and water down the overall quality of students' educational experiences.

After over a decade, when adjusted for inflation, Wisconsin was finally on the verge of getting back to pre-2008 recession level funding. This public health crisis has derailed that trajectory and an entire generation of students is now under threat. If the United States does not act now to preserve academic and educational standards, this generation will suffer inferior educational

opportunities, which lead to fewer career opportunities and a chain reaction of negative societal and economic repercussions.

Aside from the economic impact, students have already suffered learning deficits as schools have largely been shut down since mid-March. Virtual learning instituted since then cannot replace in-person instruction. The lack of direct student-teacher interaction will undoubtedly cause learning loss heading into next school year. With drastically fewer teachers and resources, this learning loss will exacerbate the problems of funding and personnel shortages. As these shortages increase, pay and benefits are also likely to suffer. This will surely lead to a reduction in post-secondary students entering the education field. These rates were already dangerously low before the COVID-19 crisis, and further decreases in teacher-prep program enrollment could be catastrophic to public education as we know it.

Local schools need significant funding and aid from Congress to combat the negative educational effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The urgency in this matter cannot be overstated. Our children's educational and economic futures depend on decisive action. An investment now will give educators a fighting chance to ensure that students across the country will have opportunities to find academic and economic success. This proactive investment is critical to each and every student and to the long-term future of our country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your commitment to serving the people of Wisconsin especially during these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District



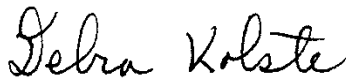
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State Senator
3rd Senate District



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State Representative
91st Assembly District



Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District



Debra Kolste
State Representative
44th Assembly District



Evan Goyke
State Representative
18th Assembly District



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State Senator
26th Senate District



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94th Assembly District



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46th Assembly District

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47th Assembly District

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12th Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson
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6th Senate District

Melissa Sargent
State Representative
48th Assembly District

Jason Fields
State Representative
11th Assembly District

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State Representative
43rd Assembly District

Danny Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Greta Neubauer
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Staush Gruszynski
State Representative
90th Assembly District

Tip McGuire
State Representative
64th Assembly District

Lisa Subeck
State Representative
77th Assembly District

Robyn Vining
State Representative
14th Assembly District

Chris Larson
State Representative
7th Senate District

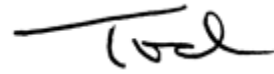
Dianne Hesselbein
State Representative
79th Assembly District



Nick Milroy
State Representative
73rd Assembly District



Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District



Tod Ohnstad
State Representative
65th Assembly District

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8th Assembly District

Lena Taylor
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