



DIOCESE OF MADISON
BISHOP O'CONNOR CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER

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DATE: March 3, 2010

TO: Representative Gary Hebl, Chairman, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Samantha Kerkman,
Representative Daniel Knodl
Representative Thomas Lothian
Representative Stephen Nass
Representative Jon Richards
Representative John Steinbrink
Representative Barbara Toles
Representative Jeffrey Wood
Representative Josh Zepnik

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer testimony recently regarding AB 726. During the question and answer session, Representative Hebl inquired as to the cost that the State of Wisconsin would incur if all the Catholic schools operating grades PK-12, were to close and all of those students were to enroll in public schools.

While I did not have the specific figures with me at that time, I have since compiled those numbers and present them to you below. Please note that while the enrollment figures for the Catholic schools represents the 2009-2010 school year with the exception of Milwaukee which is 2008-2009, the cost figure to the state (\$11,894 per pupil) represents the 2007-2008 school year, which is the most recent year for which audited cost data is available from the Department of Public Instruction.

<u>Catholic Diocese</u>	<u>PK-12 Enrollment 2009-2010</u>	<u>Cost to the State of Wisconsin should Catholic school students move into public schools</u>
Green Bay	11,214	\$133,379,316
LaCrosse	8,297	\$98,684,518
Madison	7,925	\$94,259,950
Milwaukee (2008-2009)	33,351	\$396,676,794
Superior	2,510	\$29,853,940
Total:	64,183	\$763,392,602

Please note that the above chart considers only the Catholic schools in the state and does not consider the additional 63,515 students who attend other religious and private schools in the state.

Please feel free to contact me at michael.lancaster@straphael.org or by phone at 608-821-3180 should you have further questions.

Most sincerely,

Michael J. Lancaster
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Madison

