

Open Letter to West Allis - West Milwaukee School District Area Legislators who Co-Sponsored the Original Taxpayer Protection Act

The following letter was sent to Sen. Tom Reynolds, Sen. Mary Lazich, Rep. Mark Gundrum, and Rep. Leah Vukmir by West Allis - West Milwaukee School District Superintendent Kurt Wachholz in response to their support of the original version of the so-called "Wisconsin Taxpayer Protection Act."

Your name is among those credited as a sponsor of the proposed "Wisconsin Taxpayer Protection Amendment." As 14th Assembly District Representative, we rely upon you to act in the best interests of the more than 9,000 students educated in the School District of West Allis – West Milwaukee. These students, as you know, encompass a wide range of skills, talents, and needs, from the severely disabled, to the gifted, creative and talented, and everything in between. I'm sure you share our goal of educating them to the best of their and our ability.

Since the inception of revenue caps over 10 years ago, the funding of our students' education has, for all practical purposes, been placed in the hands of the state legislature. Your decisions as they relate to funding have a profound impact on our curriculum, staffing, and educational priorities.

Obviously, such decisions should require much thought, deliberation, and dialogue prior to being made, especially if they are being forwarded as an amendment to the State of Wisconsin Constitution.

I am confident that prior to affixing your signature in support of AJR 77 SJR 63 you, in your capacity as 14th Assembly District Representative, carefully examined how the proposed "Taxpayer Protection Amendment" would impact the West Allis – West Milwaukee School District. Therefore, on behalf of the parents and students of the School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee, please detail in writing how this constitutional amendment would specifically affect our revenues and why you believe this constitutional amendment would be in the best interests of the West Allis - West Milwaukee Public School District students you and I serve.

Your explanation will assist us in a multitude of decisions related to budgeting, staffing, facilities and educational priorities.

I look forward to your detailed, and specific response as it relates to the impact of AJR 77 SJR 63 on the School District of West Allis - West Milwaukee, et al.

Sincerely,

Kurt Wachholz
Superintendent
The School District of West Allis – West Milwaukee, et al