



December 9, 2020

Governor Tony Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes  
PO Box 7863  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Gov. Evers and Lt. Gov. Barnes,

We write to follow up on our letter of November 30 urging you to propose a transformational state budget in February that forcefully tackles four emergencies facing Wisconsin—**economic inequality, health insecurity, social injustice** and **environmental insanity**. In addition to the ways of dealing with these crises that we shared with you in our previous letter, we want to further recommend a way you can gain maximum leverage in budget negotiations with legislative Republicans.

We suggest zeroing out funding in your proposed budget for a state subsidy program benefiting a select few, namely Wisconsin's school voucher program. When majority Republicans seek to restore funding for the program in the budget bill they pass, make it clear you are prepared to use your partial veto authority to eliminate the funding again. They do not have the supermajorities needed to override your vetoes.

We don't have to tell you how much legislative Republicans love the voucher program. You have it in your power to dismantle it. In order to save taxpayer-subsidized private schooling, they will have no choice but to support your own budget initiatives. If they refuse to do so, one of their signature programs will go away. Eliminating the voucher program would be no great loss to our state. It was started nearly 30 years ago with promises that it would boost student achievement and improve the performance of both public and private schools throughout the state. It has failed to deliver the promised results. Voucher students do no better than their peers in public schools. By some measures they do worse. What these private school subsidies have done is siphon resources away from community schools, weakening them badly, especially in rural areas of the state.

Legislative Republicans have shown little to no interest in working with you and have blocked your actions at every turn. We urge you to play hardball with them.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sarah Lloyd in black ink.

Sarah Lloyd  
Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Charlie Ryan in black ink.

Charlie Ryan  
Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Mike McCabe in black ink.

Mike McCabe  
Executive Director