

Senator Darling, Representative Nygren, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brad Boll - I am the Director of Business Services for the School District of Beloit Turner.

We are currently scheduling interviews to hire a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in an elementary school that achieved a score of 82.7 on the 2017-18 School Report Card and Exceeds Expectations. New teachers in our District with a bachelor's degree and no experience will earn a minimum of \$42,000 next year. We had 18 candidates for the position. Ten years ago we would have had between 140-180 candidates. We feel like three of the 18 candidates are actually qualified to fill the position.

Since Act 10, we do have some tools to help us better manage our operations – employees in our District contribute at least 12% of the cost of their health insurance premiums and we are completing the first full year of group health insurance coverage with a new carrier that forced about a third of our employees to switch providers.

Also since Act 10 – as Todd Berry pointed out in August 2017 – Wisconsin's per pupil spending has fallen below the national average and schools across our state have struggled to attract and retain quality professional educators.

On behalf of the students in my District as well as public school students across our state, I am here to advocate for the Governor's proposal to provide at least a \$200 per pupil general revenue increase in each year of the biennium and a major increase in state aid for special education for public school students. We should all be embarrassed that the reimbursement for costs to support our most challenged and vulnerable students has fallen below 25%.

Wisconsin residents have made it very clear that funding public education is their top priority.

In November, support for public education – and public educators – carried the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to victory over our state's most powerful politician.

In January, 73% of all respondents in the Marquette University poll supported “a major increase in state aid for special education for public school students”.

Lastly, the unprecedented referendum success that Wisconsin school districts experienced in 2018 didn't come about because school districts successfully redrew their boundaries to exclude pockets of "No" voters. It was the result of taxpayers in all corners of our state standing up to show their support for public education and recognizing the critical importance of increasing the investment in their local community's greatest asset – its public schools.

I encourage all of you to stand up for the children you serve and ask for your support of the Governor's education funding proposals. I would invite all of you (not just Representative Loudenbeck) to come visit any of our schools and see for yourself the wonderful things that our students are doing every day.

Thank you for listening and for serving the citizens of our great state.