



DANE COUNTY

Kathleen M. Falk

County Executive

January 9, 2009

James Doyle, Governor
State of Wisconsin
State Capitol, Room 115 East
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

Thank you for your past support and advocacy on behalf of Dane County citizens. As you continue your work on the new State Budget, I respectfully ask that you consider supporting some items for enactment that will benefit young and old alike in Dane County.

Among the items to consider are:

Maintain the Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) Funding (\$250,000 per year)

Thanks to you and our state legislators this funding was included in the last state budget. The ECI program began four years ago by helping 80 families in the Allied Drive neighborhood secure jobs for parents and adequate health care for their newborns. The program was a success and with your funding was expanded to the South Bird Street/Park Circle neighborhood in Sun Prairie and the Hammersley and Russett Roads area on Madison's southwest side -- more parents benefiting with jobs and more health care for their kids. Please continue the funding for this important program that gives vulnerable families an opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Include the 911 Surcharge for Landline, Cellular, Text, VoIP And Future Forms of Telecommunications

The 911 statutes need updating to meet new and future telecommunications technology and restore a surcharge to help fund 911 centers and safeguard the public. The previous surcharge expired in 2008 just as 911 centers need to meet new technologies and upgrades. Please include the 911 reform language and surcharge in the state budget bill. For a very small fee for consumers, very significant public safety is gained.

Interstate Traffic Ticket Enforcement

Amend the state statutes to allow Wisconsin to join the Interstate Compact on Traffic Forfeitures. This action will facilitate collection of out of state traffic violators and capture a needed revenue source for the state and county. For the entire state, it could mean \$3 million; it would mean about \$200,000 for Dane County itself.

Create the Child Support Enforcement Bonus Program

In these times of tight budgets and rising health care costs, it would behoove us to look at providing a bonus for Child Support Enforcement programs that move a child from medical assistance to the responsible parent's health insurance program. Please authorize this new program within the state budget bill.

Alcohol Policy Changes

Alcohol abuse and drunk driving kill, destroy, cripple and maim families, schools and communities. Under separate cover, I am sending you a detailed description of several proposals that if enacted on the state level, would help address these problems. Please include the elements of these proposals appropriate to the state budget bill.

Establish Regional Transportation Authorities (RTA)

Create countywide regional transportation authorities, allowing up to a half-cent sales tax, which would go to citizens for countywide referendum and establish an RTA governance/operating structure developed by participating community partners. Whether it is commuter rail, bus transit systems or rural highways, all must be integrated, constructed and upgraded to meet future transportation needs. Please include RTA within the state budget bill. Please be assured that the Mayor of Madison, the County Board Chair, and I are fully and publicly committed to holding a countywide referendum prior to the creation of an RTA or addition to the sales tax.

Dane County needs your support by including these requests in the state budget bill. Most of the requests require no funding or will capture scarce non-state revenue sources. I look forward to working with you and the legislature in any way you find helpful as you address our very difficult fiscal situation. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Falk
Dane County Executive

cc: Dane County Legislative Delegation

KMF:gh
H:\shared\tw\ltrs\09\doyle.ltr