



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

September 23, 2009

Secretary Reggie Bicha
Department of Children and Families
201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Dear Secretary Bicha:

Following the release of the audit report regarding ongoing problems in the Wisconsin Shares program, several members of the Joint Committee on Finance have requested your appearance before the committee to discuss this topic.

As stewards of the state's finances, we are requesting your appearance before the committee at the conclusion of our next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

Obviously, allegations and findings of fraud and possible child endangerment are very concerning to this committee. Because the audit report is certainly underscored by the financial climate, it is of the utmost importance that we ensure our state's funds are being expended in the most effective and efficient manner to ensure that those in need are receiving access to resources as well as to ensure state funds are spent appropriately.

Through the budget process, we were always impressed by your willingness and availability to meet with us. We hope you will continue this by making yourself or members of your staff responsible for oversight of the program available to the committee.

Sincerely,

Sen. Mark Miller
Senate Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
16th Senate District

Rep. Mark Pocan
Assembly Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance
78th Assembly District





WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

September 23, 2009

Representative Mark Pocan, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Senator Mark Miller, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Representative Pocan and Senator Miller:

Following the ongoing revelations of continued abuse in the Wisconsin Shares program, we request that the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance direct the Department of Children and Families to appear before the committee to provide information about its plans to address these egregious instances of fraud and allegations of child endangerment.

Eight months after our request for a thorough and immediate audit of the program, we are still learning of extensive and outrageous practices in this program that are putting Wisconsin's children in danger and taking advantage of Wisconsin's taxpayers. Despite the ongoing audit and the formation of a special task force involving law enforcement at all levels to address these issues, the near constant media and investigatory reports of criminal activity in this program raise extreme concerns for accountability within Wisconsin Shares. We believe it is critical that the Department of Children and Families provide full and immediate access to information related to Wisconsin Shares in order to return fiscal responsibility and program integrity to our state's child care subsidy program.

The ongoing and shocking theft of taxpayer dollars and the newest allegations of sex offenders living in the homes of child care providers lend even greater urgency to the need for immediate and thorough resolution of these serious issues.

We thank you both for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Tamara Grigsby
State Representative
18th Assembly District

Cory Mason
State Representative
62nd Assembly District

Lena Taylor
State Senator
4th Senate District

John Lehman
State Senator
21st Senate District