



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
United States House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Congressman Fitzgerald and Senator Johnson:

Hope this letter finds you well. My name is Kyle Maichle, the President and Board Chairman of Americans for Autism Advocacy (AFAA). AFAA is an IRS 501(c)4 organization that advocates for the economic, educational, ethics reform and health care outcomes for neurodivergent individuals and their families. Additionally, I am a proud Wisconsinite who is neurodivergent.

AFAA is writing to inform your offices about a report published by the Dairyland Sentinel on March 2, 2026. The report alleges that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) conference planned to reimburse attendees for a networking social using funds originally designated for Wisconsin under the *Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act of 1974 (IDEA)*¹. This conference took place at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has been reported by the *Dairyland Sentinel* for using taxpayer funds to host conferences at indoor waterpark resorts in Wisconsin Dells. This spending comes at the expense of taxpayers. These reports found that attendees of these conferences were forced to sign non-disclosure agreements which could be a violation of the *Wisconsin Open Meetings Act* (Wisconsin Statutes § 19.81-19.98)².

Wisconsin is looked up by other states in the special education community as a national leader. Only 12 states, including Wisconsin, were fully meeting IDEA Act standards in 2024³. The reports prompt concern about whether federal general and special education funds are being appropriately utilized by a group of conference attendees for a networking social held at a lavish Wisconsin Dells resort.

With these facts in mind, I kindly request the following:

1. Formally request that the Department of Education and/or the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin initiate an investigation into the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB). The focus of this investigation should be the appropriate utilization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds related to the social networking event held in Wisconsin Dells..

¹ Dairyland Sentinel, <https://dairylandsentinel.com/did-dpi-put-local-school-districts-at-risk-of-federal-audit/>

² Dairyland <https://dairylandsentinel.com/dpi-forward-exam-participant-list-transparency/> Sentinel, <https://dairylandsentinel.com/dpi-forward-exam-participant-list-transparency/>

³ Americans for Autism Advocacy, <https://www.autismadvocatesus.com/americans-for-autism-advocacy-statement-on-us-department-of-education-release-of-idea-act-report-cards/>

Office of U.S. Congressman Scott Fitzgerald
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RE: Alleged Improper Use of IDEA Act Funds

2. Using your congressional oversight authority to investigate the DPI's actions. Specifically, AFAA requests whether it was appropriate for the DPI to host conferences at lavish Wisconsin Dells resorts and simultaneously require attendees to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs). Furthermore, it is crucial to determine if any federal funds were used to cover the expenses of these conferences.
3. The potential misuse of funds, specifically regarding the WASB Networking Social held in Wisconsin Dells, raises a critical question: is Wisconsin at risk of losing its funding under the IDEA Act?
4. Asking the Office of the Attorney General, State of Wisconsin, along with the Office of District Attorney in Sauk County to open an investigation relating to violations of the *Wisconsin Public Meetings Act*.
5. Referring this matter further to appropriate federal agencies as necessary.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance. You can email me at kyle@autismadvocatesus.com or you can call me at 262-208-5046. Thank you very much for your time and consideration and On Wisconsin!

Very truly yours,



Kyle Maichle
President and Board Chairman
Americans for Autism Advocacy