



Oct. 4, 2011

Tobie Black, Staff Assistant
Milwaukee Common Council

Transmitted electronically only: tblack@milwaukee.gov
(For delivery to Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee members)

RE: File # 110745: Substitute resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose.

American Civil
Liberties Union
of Wisconsin Foundation
State Headquarters
207 E. Buffalo St.,
Suite 325
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5774
T/ 414-272-4032
F/ 414-272-0182

Dear Chair Murphy and Members of the Finance & Personnel Committee:

On behalf of the ACLU of Wisconsin, I am writing in support of File # 110745. This resolution, if adopted, will ensure openness in government by ensuring that Milwaukee property taxpayers receive full information on the property tax levied by the Milwaukee Public Schools for MPS' own use, and on the amount that MPS is required to levy for the sole benefit of private schools over which MPS has no administrative or financial control, some of which are not even located in the City.

American Civil
Liberties Union
of Wisconsin Foundation
Madison Area Office
P.O. Box 687
Madison, WI 53701-0687
T/ 608-469-5540

The ACLU is a steadfast supporter of transparency and openness in government. We are also a steadfast supporter of public education, especially the Wisconsin Constitution's "fundamental right to an equal opportunity for a sound basic education. An equal opportunity for a sound basic education is one that will equip students for their roles as citizens and enable them to succeed economically and personally." *Vincent v. Voight*, 614 N.W.2d 388, 2000 WI 93, ¶3. "An equal opportunity for a sound basic education acknowledges that students and districts are not fungible and takes into account districts with disproportionate numbers of disabled students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with limited English language skills." *Id.*, at ¶87.

www.ACLU-WI.org

It is the Milwaukee Public Schools that is Constitutionally obligated to comply with this mandate. The lack of transparency as it relates to voucher funding means that most taxpayers are unaware of the amount of their tax levy that is subsidizing the voucher program - more than \$50 million dollars per year. Failing to disclose the amount of funding going to the voucher program also means many taxpayers also wrongly assume that the entire amount of the levy is going to MPS, an erroneous assumption that has at times undermined MPS' efforts to meaningfully and adequately meet the needs of its own students - Milwaukee children.

For these reasons, we urge this Committee, and the entire Council, to support this commonsense measure to provide accurate information to Milwaukee taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Karyn L. Rotker
Senior Staff Attorney



From: Jasmine Alinder [jasmine.alinder@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 12:36 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Cc: Kovac, Nik

Subject: Letter for Finance Committee

****Please distribute to members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee for their October 5th meeting****

October 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee property taxpayer and a proud parent of a child in Milwaukee Public Schools asking that you approve Alderman Kovac's **Resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose**. This resolution is also in line with the MPS Board's request to increase transparency in government by asking the City Treasurer and Comptroller to make clear that over \$50 million of Milwaukee's property taxpayer dollars go to the voucher program. Most people don't know that this is the case because the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS tax levy. Last year 17% of what was listed on my tax bill as going to MPS actually went to pay the voucher tax. That's a huge amount of money, just about the same as Milwaukeeans pay to MATC. As a property taxpayer in Milwaukee, it's long past time that this state sponsored shell game is ended and long past due that all Milwaukee taxpayers know where our money is actually going.

As a parent I am also concerned because the way that the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS levy could jeopardize the School Board's power to put the maximum amount of resources into our children's public schools. That will be especially true next year because in the recently passed state budget the state legislature included a clause that allows for an additional \$50 per pupil in funding, but only to those districts that use all of their tax levy authority. It's not clear why they decided to do things that way, but they did, and if the voucher tax increases substantially and gives the appearance that the MPS tax levy is even higher than it actually is, the MPS Board may be pressured not to use all of its authority and MPS could lose out on

more than \$4 million. My daughter lost five valued, caring teachers in her school this year, including her beloved art teacher. We cannot afford to let my child and all of our 80,000 kids in Milwaukee public schools suffer any further cuts. Their futures are at stake.

It makes sense that elected officials, policymakers, parents and taxpayers should all have access to factual, non-biased information, and it makes sense that the information should be clear and readily available. Please support this resolution. It is about two of our city's core values: transparency in city government and the care of our children. These are values that this Common Council should advocate with the passage of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Alinder

2825 N Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211

From: Lorena Terando [lorenaterando@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 1:44 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Subject: Please distribute to Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee for Oct. 5 meeting

To: Tobie Black, Staff Assistant

tblack@milwaukee.gov

-
Please distribute to members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee for their October 5th meeting

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee property taxpayer and parent of children in Milwaukee Public Schools asking that you approve Alderman Kovacs "Resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose." This resolution is also in line with the MPS Boards request to increase transparency in government by asking the City Treasurer and Comptroller to make clear that over \$50 million of Milwaukee's property taxpayer dollars go to the voucher program, hidden within the MPS tax levy. Last year 17% of what was listed on my tax bill as going to MPS actually went to pay the voucher tax. It is high time that this state sponsored shell game is ended and that all Milwaukee taxpayers know where our money is going.

As a parent I am also concerned because the way that the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS levy could jeopardize the School Boards power to put the maximum amount of resources into our children's public schools. That will be especially true next year because in the recently passed state budget the state legislature included a clause that allows for an additional \$50 per pupil in funding, but only to those districts that use all of their tax levy authority. My daughters do not have art, music or p.e. in their school; we cannot afford to let Milwaukee public schools suffer any further cuts.

Elected officials, policymakers, parents and taxpayers should all have access to factual, non-biased information that is readily available. Please support this resolution. It is about two of our city's core values: transparency in city government and the care of our children.

Please approve the "Resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose."

Thank you for your consideration.

Lorena Terando
3319 S 12th Street
Milwaukee WI 53215

From: Jennifer O'Hear [jenniferohear@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 1:58 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Subject: Resolution re tax bills

To: Tobie Black, Staff Assistant,

tblack@milwaukee.gov

****Please distribute to members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee for their October 5th meeting****

October 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee property taxpayer and a proud parent of two children in Milwaukee Public Schools asking that you approve Alderman Kovac's "Resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose."

Taxpayers have the right to know where their money is going. Please make it clear on the tax bills how much is going for voucher schools.

Thank you.

Jennifer O'Hear

2831 N Prospect Ave

Milwaukee, WI 53211

From: kim Malacara [kmalacara@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 4:21 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Subject: transparency

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee property taxpayer, a proud parent of a child in Milwaukee Public Schools, and a proud teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools asking that you approve Alderman Kovac's "**Resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose.**" **This resolution is also in line with** the MPS Board's request to increase transparency in government by asking the City Treasurer and Comptroller to make clear that over \$50 million of Milwaukee's property taxpayer dollars go to the voucher program. Most people don't know that this is the case because the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS tax levy. Last year 17% of what was listed on my tax bill as going to MPS actually went to pay the voucher tax. That's a huge amount of money, just about the same as Milwaukeeans pay to MATC. As a property taxpayer in Milwaukee, it's long past time that this state sponsored shell game is ended and long past due that all Milwaukee taxpayers know where our money is actually going. As a parent and an MPS teacher, I am also concerned because the way that the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS levy could jeopardize the School Board's power to put the maximum amount of resources into our children's public schools. That will be especially true next year because in the recently passed state budget the state legislature included a clause that allows for an additional \$50 per pupil in funding, but only to those districts that use all of their tax levy authority. It's not clear why they

decided to do things that way, but they did, and if the voucher tax increases substantially and gives the appearance that the MPS tax levy is even higher than it actually is, the MPS Board may be pressured not to use all of its authority and MPS could lose out on more than \$4 million. We cannot afford to let my child and all of our 80,000 kids in Milwaukee public schools suffer any further cuts. Their futures are at stake.

In addition, there is not as much regulation over voucher schools. So, in the end, they do not face the same legislation from DPI or regulation from any concerned party to oversee these schools. I, as a taxpayer, should expect the same expectations from all schools within the city, especially if they are receiving my money through taxes. Many of these schools do not service at-risk students or special needs students. They take the money received after third Friday, and then eventually send "hard-to-deal-with" students back to the public system. This is simply not fair or transparent.

It is common sense that elected officials, policymakers, parents and taxpayers should all have access to factual, non-biased information, and that information should be clear and readily available. Please support this resolution. It is about two of our city's core values: transparency in city government and the care of our children. These are values that this Common Council should advocate with the passage of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Kim Malacara
MPS Parent

MPS Teacher
Milwaukee Taxpayer
2841 S. Logan Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207
kmalacara@yahoo.com

Black, Tobie

From: Jennifer Mandel [cjmandel@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 8:29 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Subject: Alderman Kovac's "Resolution to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose.

To: Tobie Black, Staff Assistant,

Please distribute to members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee for their October 5th meeting

October 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance & Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee resident and proud parent of three students attending Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). I am asking that you approve Alderman Kovac's "Resolution to the information to be included with the tax bills provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose." Given the political climate surrounding education in the state of Wisconsin, taxpayers and parents need full transparency of the matters pertaining to our school. Historically, the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) has negatively impacted the students in Milwaukee Public Schools. The funding flaw violates the school funding formula written for all schools in Wisconsin, yet MPS students don't have the formula applied to them fairly. I realize this resolution will not fix the funding formula, however, the resolution begins to illuminate the spending the MPCP costs taxpayers. Given all of the public comments about MPS spending, it's clear that most people don't realize that what they see on their property tax bill for money going to MPS, in fact, includes all of the MPCP schools. While taxpayers are not allowed any access to data (test scores, graduation rates, truancy rates, promotion rates) for the MPCP schools, we should at least let every tax payer know that some of the money going to "MPS" is actually going to the voucher schools. Transparency is critical for people to be informed about their taxes and spending in their city.

As a parent in MPS, I worry about what cuts have come this year and what is to come next year.

Every year, the general public believes that MPS keeps raising our property taxes, when in fact, our taxes may raise as a result of the MPCP and the recent legislation allowing for an additional \$50 per student for those districts that use all of their tax levy authority. Taxpayers in Milwaukee continue to think that MPS is the sole district using the tax base for school. Until taxpayers have more transparency of their school spending, MPS student will continue to suffer the consequences with less resources each year. We deserve to have our tax spending detailed fashion that is transparent and clear. The city's children need to have decisions made about their education done in a manner that is informed with all information needed. Please approve Alderman Kovac's Resolution.

Jennifer Mandel
2932 West State St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

10/5/2011

Black, Tobie

From: Phyllis M Talarczyk [talarcz2@uwm.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 8:46 PM
To: Black, Tobie
Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett; Kovac, Nik
Subject: Milwaukee resolution for tax transparency!

Dear members of the Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee:
Good morning.

I am the parent of two Milwaukee Public School children. The other day we went to open house and all anyone could talk about was the budget and what we will have to do without. SHAME on WI! Shame on Milwaukee and Shame on you! We should find every way to invest in our future, our kids. I love Milwaukee and we love Hartford University school but I love my kids the most and if things keep going down this distorted path, I will need to reconsider where I live and who I support. I hate the idea of charter schools they don't fit in to the system that works and I see too much abuse and wrong doing in the name of misplaced ideas. If you don't stop the program the very least you can do is have them be honest and up front with their budgets.

My family is worried and devastated with the outlook for our future, and the future of the other 80,000 kids in Milwaukee Public Schools.

As a Milwaukee resident and taxpayer, I am not a high-powered lobbyist. I don't have funding from out-of-state ideologues who want to destroy public education. I don't have a direct line to the members of the Common Council. (We all should!) I don't have think-tanks and consortiums of business leaders to interview kids, make biased movies, and cherry-pick facts and testing data to make my kids' schools look more successful than they are.

Twisting the numbers to show false education. It is time to shine a bit of light on one MPS's dark secrets. To work together we need to work in the light of truth and not hide in the shadows so some may profit on funding that belongs in true educators hands.

Good news I have you: the Common Council, the City Treasurer, Comptroller and the Mayor. As my elected representatives, I strongly urge you to adopt Milwaukee Public Schools' resolution for tax transparency on property-tax bills.

I want the fifty million dollars of the MPS property-tax levy that supported the Milwaukee "Parental Choice" Program to be listed separately from the MPS property-tax levy in all future bills. I am a taxpayer and I choose to be a consumer of your public schools, even though state funding cuts and attacks on teachers are devastating these schools.

I see no reason why anyone on either side of this issue should be afraid of more transparency in taxation. If your citizens are expected to pay upwards of fifty million dollars for private schools, we should be told that directly on our tax bills. It should not be hidden within the cost of Milwaukee Public Schools. Truth in taxation is nothing to be afraid of.

I truly love my children's traditional Milwaukee Public Schools. I chose MPS, and your city, because it offered my children the chance to learn more as early as 4K. The MPCP erodes substantial funding from MPS and has powerful advocates who will manipulate the facts of the program's performance and hide the program's cost behind the MPS levy.

I am your constituent, I pay your salary. I am asking you for something simple and honest and painless: Break out and display the tax levy for the MPCP - a figure greater than the levy for MMSD and equivalent to the sixth-largest school district in the state - separate from the MPS levy on all annual tax documents sent to Milwaukee taxpayers. I know the system is flawed and it will take time to repair and reinvent a better system, let's start here and get going down the right path to set Milwaukee and MPS on a course for improved education for all.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Talarczyk
2220 E. Linnwood Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

cc:

Black, Tobie

From: hlcarter@wi.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 8:56 PM
To: Black, Tobie
Subject: In support of tax transparency

Dear Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee:

I am writing as a city of Milwaukee property taxpayer and a proud parent of a child in a Milwaukee Public School asking that you approve Alderman Kovac's "resolution relating to the information to be included with the tax bills's provided to City property owners and appropriating funds for this purpose." This resolution is what the MPS Board is requesting in that transparency exist in government by asking the City Treasurer and Comptroller to make clear that over \$50 million of Milwaukee's property tax dollars go to the voucher program. Many people are not aware that this is the case because it is not transparent or clear that the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS tax levy. Last year a significant amount of my tax bill went to pay the voucher tax instead of MPS as it was listing. This is misleading. I support MPS, and I want to know how much of my tax dollars support MPS in language I can understand. I want to know clearly where my money is going.

As a parent, I am concerned because the way the voucher tax is hidden within the MPS levy could jeopardize the School Board's power to put the maximum amount of resources into our child's public school. This concerns me because in the new state budget, the state legislature included a clause that allows for an additional \$50 per pupil in funding for those districts that use all of their tax levy authority. This may make MPS lose more money which hurts public school children like mine. We can not allow our public schools to lose more teachers and more resources which will further hurt them.

I should have clear, factual, nonbiased information that is understandable and available when I look at my tax bill. Please support this resolution. We need transparency in our city government and quality public schools.

Sincerely,

Henry and Olivia Carter
4621 N. 87th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Black, Tobie

From: Jean GAtz [jeanmgatz@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 9:29 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Subject: tax bills need to be transperant

please make the tax bills transperent so that it is clear that my tax dollars are not just going to MPS but also a huge percentage going to voucher schools in and outside the city. We have a right to know where our money is going and how it is being spent.

Thank you, jean Gatz

Black, Tobie

From: Suzanne Giaimo [sum.giaimo@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 10:10 PM

To: Black, Tobie

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett

Subject: tax transparency and MISuse of Milwaukee tax dollars


Please be sure to open everyone's eyes to this use of Milwaukee taxpayers' money and let everyone know just where their money is going, and who/what it is going to support.

I want you to be sure that you know that I am in favor of tax transparency, because if our tax dollars are going to support a growing network of private schools, we need as much information as possible. Our tax dollars are going to schools that are even outside the borders of the city of Milwaukee! This has to stop!

My name is Suzanne Giaimo and my husband is Lawrence Sumner. We live at 10402 W Goodrich Avenue in Milwaukee and want it known that we want our voices heard in this matter. As Milwaukee taxpayers we feel that all taxpayers should be aware of the fact that voucher schools are hiding under the guise of Milwaukee public schools so as to avoid accountability and costs to operate.

Please share this email with all of the members of the Common Council in your meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

S. Giaimo
L. Sumner

Never dig a hole bigger than you are unless you plan to be buried in it! 
(Sage wisdom of L.H., May 7, 2010)

and..... **"Until one has loved an animal,
part of their soul remains unawakened."**

'Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain

We are getting older but only one day at a time

Black, Tobie

From: Patty Craig [pcfolk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 12:09 AM
To: Black, Tobie

Subject: for the Oct 5, 9 am Common Council Finance meeting

To: Tobie Black, Staff Assistant,
Please distribute to members of the Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee for their October 5th meeting

October 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee:

I am a taxpayer, property owner and business owner. My daughter attends an outstanding MPS school. I have lived in the city of Milwaukee for over 30 years.

I was quite surprised to find out that 17% of the money sent to MPS (50 million dollars!) goes to private choice schools that MPS has no control or authority over. I had no idea it was that much. I was also recently shocked to find out that some of my tax dollars are going to schools in Cedarburg, Fox Point, Columbus, New London, and other communities outside of Milwaukee. It seems, with the current legislation, that these percentages are only going to increase.

In the interest of open, transparent government and being truthful to the taxpayers, I would like to respectfully request that the tax bill sent to taxpayers separately list the money going to MPS and the money going to Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

Sincerely,

Patricia Stevenson
1820 N. 52
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Black, Tobie

From: Liza Barry-Kessler [lizabarrykessler@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 6:32 AM
To: Black, Tobie
Subject: Please Support Voucher School Tax Transparency

Dear Ms. Black,

Please distribute this to members of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee for their meeting this morning, October 5, 2011. Thank you for your assistance.

Dear members of the Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee:

My name is Liza Barry-Kessler. I am the parent of two Milwaukee Public School children, as well as a proud MPS alumna (Lloyd Street School, Eighth Street School, and Rufus King High School).

I love my kids' schools, and I am devastated with worry over their future, and the future of the other 80,000 kids in Milwaukee Public Schools.

As a Milwaukee resident and taxpayer, I am not a high-powered lobbyist. I don't have funding from out-of-state ideologues who want to destroy public education. I don't have a direct line to the members of the Common Council. I don't have think-tanks and consortiums of business leaders to interview kids, make biased movies, and cherry-pick facts and testing data to make my kids' schools look more successful than they are.

But I have you: the Common Council, the City Treasurer, Comptroller and the Mayor. As my elected representatives, I strongly urge you to adopt Milwaukee Public Schools' resolution for tax transparency on property-tax bills.

I want the fifty million dollars of the MPS property-tax levy that pays for the Milwaukee "Parental Choice" Program to be listed separately from the MPS property-tax levy in all future bills. I am a taxpayer and I choose to be a consumer of our public schools, even though state funding cuts and attacks on teachers are devastating these schools.

I see no reason why anyone on either side of this issue should be afraid of more transparency in taxation. If our citizens are expected to pay upwards of fifty million dollars for private schools, we should be told that directly on our tax bills. It shouldn't be hidden within the cost of Milwaukee Public Schools. Truth in taxation is nothing to be afraid of.

I chose MPS, and our city, because of the diverse public education possibilities we offer -- language immersion, arts programs, rigorous college prep programs, and for those who need something slightly different, charter schools within the MPS system. The choice program erodes substantial funding from MPS and has powerful advocates who will manipulate the facts of the program's performance and hide the program's cost behind the MPS levy.

I am asking you for something simple and honest and painless: Break out and display the tax levy for the MPCP – a figure greater than the levy for MMSD and equivalent to the sixth-largest school district in the state – separate from the MPS levy on all annual tax documents sent to Milwaukee taxpayers.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Liza Barry-Kessler
2857 N 77th St
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Dear Members of the Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee:

Good morning.

I am the parent of three Milwaukee Public School children.

The other day my seven-year-old son came home with this report of his school year, second grade, thus far: "My school is boring now. All the good stuff is gone. We don't have gym, we never go to the library and Miss Sue [art teacher] is gone."

Seriously, this is exactly what he said to me. The exercise of writing it down a piece of paper was the only thing that kept me from getting too emotional. I love my kids' schools, and I am devastated with worry over their future, and the future of the other 80,000 kids in Milwaukee Public Schools.

As a Milwaukee resident and taxpayer, I am not a high-powered lobbyist. I don't have funding from out-of-state ideologues who want to destroy public education. I don't have a direct line to the members of the Common Council. I don't have think-tanks and consortiums of business leaders to interview kids, make biased movies, and cherry-pick facts and testing data to make my kids' schools look more successful than they are.

But I have you: the Common Council, the City Treasurer, Comptroller and the Mayor. As my elected representatives, I strongly urge you to adopt Milwaukee Public Schools' resolution for tax transparency on property-tax bills.

I want the fifty million dollars of the MPS property-tax levy that supported the Milwaukee "Parental Choice" Program to be listed separately from the MPS property-tax levy in all future bills. I am a taxpayer and I choose to be a consumer of your public schools, even though state funding cuts and attacks on teachers are devastating these schools.

I see no reason why anyone on either side of this issue should be afraid of more transparency in taxation. If your citizens are expected to pay upwards of fifty million dollars for private schools, we should be told that directly on our tax bills. It shouldn't be hidden within the cost of Milwaukee Public Schools. Truth in taxation is nothing to be afraid of.

I truly love my children's traditional Milwaukee Public Schools. I chose MPS, and your city, because it offered my children the chance to learn a foreign language as early as 4K. The MPCP erodes substantial funding from MPS and has powerful advocates who will manipulate the facts of the program's performance and hide the program's cost behind the MPS levy.

I am your constituent, I pay your salary. I am asking you for something simple and honest and painless: Break out and display the tax levy for the MPCP – a figure greater

than the levy for MMSD and equivalent to the sixth-largest school district in the state – separate from the MPS levy on all annual tax documents sent to Milwaukee taxpayers.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Angela McManaman
2472 S. Graham St.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-793-4815
angelamcmanaman@gmail.com

Susan Nusser
3334 N. Weil Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
snusser@wi.rr.com

Dear Mayor Barrett, Alderman Kovac and members of the Common Council Finance Committee:

I write to ask your support for the creation of separate budget reporting associated with the tax levy for Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

As a Milwaukee taxpayer and parent of two children in the Milwaukee Public School system, I believe that hiding the amount of the tax levy that funds MPCP within the overall MPS tax levy is dishonest, unethical, and deliberate attempt to hide the true cost of this program from the Milwaukee tax payers.

Before we, the Milwaukee tax payers, can even begin an informed discussion of the impact of MPCP, we need to see the amount of our annual levy that is devoted to this initiative. Breaking out the amount on all tax payer documents will make it clear to the taxpayer how much of their annual tax levy is being spent to subsidize private and religious schools that are not subject to the same laws and regulations as the schools of MPS.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Nusser