

**MICHAEL J. MURPHY**

ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

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**CHAIR:**  
Employees' Retirement System Investment Committee  
Finance & Personnel Committee  
Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board  
Milwaukee Arts Board

**MEMBER:**  
Steering & Rules Committee  
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development

December 20, 2010

Ms. Eileen M. Smith  
Assistant Dean and Director

Dr. Susan L. Goelzer  
Chair – Oversight and Advisory Committee

Dr. Richard L. Moss  
Chair – Medical Education and Research Committee

Wisconsin Partnership Program  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
4230 Health Sciences Learning Center  
750 Highland Avenue  
Madison, WI 53705-2221

Dear Director Smith, and Doctors Goelzer and Moss:

Thank you for your letter and responding to the issues raised during the November 17<sup>th</sup> Finance and Personnel Committee. I am aware of the monumental tasks facing our health systems, universities, governmental public health, and community-based organizations as they work together to address health issues in these uncertain economic times. The work that the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health does in training the next generation of health practitioners and leaders provides our area with the best physicians and researchers available.

Also, as I am sure you know, the City of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin are facing budget challenges in the next few years. The City of Milwaukee Health Department continually is asked to do more with less. Recent studies show that Milwaukee is the 4<sup>th</sup> poorest city in the nation, has HIV rates in certain groups that rival Sub-Saharan African countries, and has a teen pregnancy rate that, while improving, is still twice the national average. These issues require a substantial investment in our health prevention infrastructure. With the resources available to you through the Wisconsin Partnership Program, you are in a unique position to build that infrastructure.

That being said, there are several questions related to my research of the history of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield conversion that I would like to discuss with you. If you are available, I would be happy to host a meeting with you at City Hall in January 2011 to discuss these, and any other issues you may wish. The questions for discussion are attached. Please contact my office at 414-286-2074 to schedule.

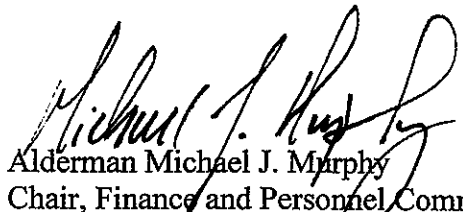
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University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

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I look forward to meeting all of you and having a productive discussion. I hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season and I will see you all in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Alderman Michael J. Murphy  
Chair, Finance and Personnel Committee  
City of Milwaukee Common Council

CC: Susan Goelzer, MD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Richard Moss, PhD, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee  
Alderman Willie Hines, City of Milwaukee  
Alderman Robert Bauman, City of Milwaukee  
Alderman Joe Dudzik, City of Milwaukee  
Alderman Nik Kovac, City of Milwaukee  
Tobie Black, Staff Assistant  
Robert Golden, MD, UW School of Medicine and Public Affairs

Enclosure.

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**Discussion Questions**

- Testimony in the public hearings in 1999 shows that President Bolger had initially proposed a 45%-55% split between public health and research and education grants. Who made the decision to move forward with a 35%-65% split?
- Initially, you did not allow faculty to get paid by grant dollars, now you allow for it. Why did this change?
- Is it your experience that local or state government employees have a hard time meeting the criteria for non-supplanting? If so, has that impacted your ability to award grants to governmental public health entities?
- Based on the number of application received in recent years, do you feel you have reached a critical mass of faculty at your schools that are capable of developing public health programs?