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June 20, 2017

To: Senators Cowles, Hansen and Lasee:

On behalf of the Green Bay Area Public School District's Board of Education and administration we want to express our support for the Governor's proposal to fund the \$200/\$204 per pupil categorical aid and the Senate proposal to use state funding rather than property taxes to increase the revenue cap for low-spending districts. As you are aware, school districts in Brown County have been advocating an increase in revenue limits for low spending districts for some time to address inequities in opportunities afforded students in low revenue limit districts.

However, we do not support the GOP Assembly's proposal to increase the amount of revenue that follows students that open enroll out of their resident school districts. When reviewing the Legislative Fiscal Bureau Report, we noted that more than half of the school districts would be negatively impacted, thus creating winners and losers. We believe that this change to open enrollment should be addressed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force that was created to address equity in the current funding formula, since it has not had a hearing or opportunity for public comment.

Within Brown County many families have taken advantage of the choice opportunities available for a variety of reasons. In the past, the Legislature has always held that in offering choice to families, resident school districts should be held harmless, with the recognition that when a student chooses to another district, the resident school district's costs don't necessarily reduce by the amount of the per pupil student revenue. For the Green Bay Area Public School District this change in funding level would result in a loss of revenue of more than \$2M, significantly impacting the students who are served in our school district. In addition, all school districts voluntarily accept open enrolled students and do so fully aware of the current funding allowed under the law.

We appreciate your efforts to support K-12 public education.

Sincerely,

Brenda Warren, Board President

Michelle Langenfeld, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools and Learning