



# School Administrators Alliance

*Representing the Interests of Wisconsin School Children*

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February 14, 2012

Governor Scott Walker  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of the School Administrators Alliance (SAA), and the more than 3,000 public school administrators we represent throughout Wisconsin, we urge you and your Republican colleagues in the State Legislature to honor the promise you made last June to close the school voucher expansion loophole adopted as part of the 2011-13 State Budget (2011 Wisconsin Act 32).

As you know, these budget provisions, inserted into the budget bill during late-night Assembly floor action without public hearing or public debate, could expand taxpayer-funded private school voucher programs to as many as 37 school districts around the state.

Once the implications of the Assembly action became clear, the public outcry was immediate. In the face of this mounting opposition to the voucher school expansion provisions, Republican legislative leaders agreed to pass the budget with the voucher expansion provisions included and then follow up with a trailer bill removing the school voucher expansion provisions for all communities except for Racine.

At the time, Senator Mike Ellis said, "Nobody agrees with the language that was inserted in there. We're going to pass the damn thing the way it is and come back with a trailer bill." From the Assembly side, Representative Robin Vos, co-chair of the powerful Joint Finance Committee, added, "A deal is a deal." Your spokesperson, Cullen Werwie, said that you would sign the trailer bill.

Last October, this trailer bill, Senate Bill 174, easily passed the Senate on a voice vote and was messaged to the Assembly. The Assembly companion, Assembly Bill 314, was recommended for passage by the Assembly Education Committee on December 1, 2011. The bill has not moved since and remains available for scheduling. We hear reports from reliable Capitol sources that Speaker Fitzgerald has no intention of scheduling the bill for floor action.

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**An Alliance of:**

Association of Wisconsin  
School Administrators

Wisconsin Association of  
School District Administrators

Wisconsin Association of  
School Business Officials

Wisconsin Council for  
Administrators of Special Services

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Governor Walker, as this legislative session nears its conclusion, it is time for the Assembly to pass Senate Bill 174/Assembly Bill 314 and close the voucher school expansion loophole. We respectfully call on you, as the leader of the Wisconsin Republican Party, to urge your party's Assembly leaders to pass this legislation and honor your promise to the people.

Anything less is an assault on what we hold as so vitally important about our system of representative government – the trust of the people for their elected representatives and the honor and integrity with which the elected uphold the people's trust.

Please use your influence to move this bill to the Assembly floor for action.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John D. Forester  
Director of Government Relations