

# Council #10



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## 10 Reasons Educators Need Healthcare Reform

1. Almost 1 million Wisconsinites either have no healthcare or lost coverage at one point during the last three years.
2. Millions of Wisconsinites are suffering financially to pay for the insurance they have and the care they need.
3. Of the state's total population, a higher percentage of children are uninsured than any other age group. Research clearly shows that student performance is adversely affected by lack of access to healthcare.
4. Wisconsin has the second highest cost of healthcare in the nation and is at a real competitive disadvantage. According to a new study by the Federal government, healthcare costs will again double within the next decade.
5. Healthcare reform will reduce costs for taxpayers as state, university, county, municipal, and K-12 employees experience real savings.
6. Significant numbers of support staff have no access to healthcare benefits through our employers. Some employers cut support staff hours to avoid paying for health insurance.
7. Escalating healthcare costs drove down teacher salaries last decade, and will continue to adversely affect the profession until there is some kind of reform. Post retirement healthcare benefits are in significant jeopardy.
8. The current high cost of healthcare makes teachers a continuing political target. Teacher benefits today are threatened by legislative action, trends in arbitration, and public perception, all of which could lead to significant loss in benefits.
9. The current political dynamic suggests that taxes will not be increased to provide more school funding. Savings from healthcare reform are the best opportunity to find revenue for compensation improvements and educational programs and services.
10. Piecemeal approaches do not effectively address the healthcare cost crisis. Only wholesale healthcare reform will generate meaningful savings and maintain a decent standard of living for all Wisconsin families.

## “Healthy Wisconsin” Backed by WEAC

Last summer during the budget process a comprehensive healthcare reform proposal called Healthy Wisconsin was passed by the Wisconsin State Senate. In March, Healthy Wisconsin was reintroduced in the legislature as a stand alone bill. After careful consideration and significant input into important details, WEAC has endorsed Healthy Wisconsin.

Healthy Wisconsin guarantees every Wisconsin resident high quality, affordable healthcare coverage while eliminating wasteful bureaucracy and excessive profits. The plan also guarantees that we have the right to bargain over our healthcare benefits and protect what we have worked so hard to maintain.

According to an actuarial analysis by a well regarded firm, Healthy Wisconsin would save Council #10 school districts up to \$2 million per district a year on the cost of insurance benefits. For more information on Healthy Wisconsin visit [www.citizenactionwi.org](http://www.citizenactionwi.org).

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Council #10 Website  
[www.weac.org/council10](http://www.weac.org/council10)

### MAKE CONNECTIONS

WEAC RA Madison - Alliant  
Energy Center, May 2-4, 2008

Great  
Schools



[weac.org](http://weac.org)

## Council #10 Joins Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools

Wisconsin's school funding system is hurting children and communities all over the state. Revenue caps have forced school districts to cut programs and lay off staff, severely damaging the quality of education they can provide for students. All of us have felt the impact of this broken system in one way or another.

The Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) is a coalition of over 150 school districts, teachers' locals, parent groups, student organizations, civic and faith-based groups, and statewide organizations, dedicated to reforming Wisconsin's school finance system. WAES provides community outreach around Wisconsin to raise public awareness of the present funding system and build support for comprehensive reform. Their outreach includes presentations, reports and studies, public events, and forums.

Council #10 joined many Locals and UniServs around the state in supporting WAES. For more information on our school funding crisis and how we can reform the system, visit the WAES website at [www.excellentschools.org](http://www.excellentschools.org).

## Action Alert: Urge Legislators to Protect Public Education Funding

Wisconsin faces a considerable state budget deficit. The Assembly budget repair plan puts in jeopardy critical education resources. Governor Doyle and the Senate have put forward plans to protect these investments in education.

Take action today to urge legislators to protect public education dollars from budget cuts in resolving the state's fiscal dilemma. Go to the Cyberlobby section of the "Members Only" page at [www.weac.org](http://www.weac.org) and send your message today.

Your message to your legislators could include the following statements:

- Please fight to maintain the state's commitment to public education in resolving the state budget deficit. This funding is critical to the state's future economic growth and prosperity.
- School districts cannot withstand budget cuts without harming public education. Even with existing levels of funding capped by revenue controls, school districts have been forced to cut programs and lay off staff, damaging the quality of education they can provide for students.
- In the days to come, I know you will be faced with very difficult decisions. As you weigh the options, I am counting on you to stand up for public education and work towards a budget solution that shields public schools from cuts.

Much is at stake during this critical time. Please take the time to do your part to protect funding for our schools and our children!

## Enjoy USEFULL Learning Opportunities!

Throughout the year, WEAC and area UniServs offer great opportunities for members interested in learning more about their professional rights and responsibilities. These courses are held at the United Education Profession building at 13805 W. Burleigh Road in Brookfield. Seating is limited for these events. To register call (262) 789-6000.

- Tuesday, April 8, 4:30pm – Privacy in the Workplace (Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't out to get you!)
- Wednesday, April 30, 4:30pm – Discipline in the Classroom – Our Rights

## Member Ads

**Door County Cabin for Rent.** Accommodates up to 12 people. Cabin is near Baileys Harbor in a rural, woodsy setting. Available year-round. Electric heat, many amenities, fireplace, open concept living, dining, kitchenette, sleeping loft with 4 beds, large deck with furniture, gas grill. Call (414) 427-8420 or (920) 839-2715 for additional information and educator discounts.