

## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 13th, 2019  
**To:** All Legislators  
**From:** Senator Chris Larson, Representative Jodi Emerson, Representative Robyn Vining  
**Re:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB-2897/1 relating to: Transparency for Property Taxpayers

**Deadline: Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 5PM**

This bill provides full transparency to residents of Wisconsin about how their property tax dollars are spent.

This bill would require property tax bills to include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any net reduction in state aid, if any, to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide voucher program, the Racine voucher program, or the Milwaukee voucher program.

The school voucher program was started in Milwaukee in 1990 and later expanded to Racine in 2011 and statewide in 2013. State spending on the voucher program has grown from less than \$1 million a year to more than \$270 million in 2016-17.

In 2018, \$302 million was transferred from taxpayers to private schools to educate students in the three voucher programs, including 7,140 pupils in the statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, an increase of about \$33 million (12.3 percent) over 2017. This reduces public school funding by the same amount. School districts will then pass the charge on to property taxpayers.

Because the cost of the voucher program is not listed on taxpayers' property tax bills, this voucher tax is hidden. This bill would remedy that by providing complete and open transparency to property taxpayers in Wisconsin.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, or if you have any questions, please reply to this email or contact Nick in Sen. Larson's office (6-8546) or Crystal in Rep. Emerson's office (6-7461)

### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill, requires that a person's property tax bill include information from the school district where the property is located regarding the amount of any gross reduction in state aid to the district as a result of pupils enrolled in the statewide choice program, the Racine choice program, or the Milwaukee choice program or as a result of making payments to private schools under the special needs scholarship program

*For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.*