

OCT. 1, 2002 HEARING TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD

U. S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works
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Dear Committee Members:

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We need both, effective national indoor air quality standards and an illness tracking system for schools. The lack of sufficient funding for school operation and maintenance is like painting a room with a paintball gun and is not conducive to a good learning.

My asthmatic son Glenn, is highly allergic to mold, mildew, and fungi. He missed 32 days of school last year in the first two months of third grade. For him 40% humidity is too low and 50% humidity is too high. I monitor & record his peak flow breathing levels 3x a day to document irreplaceable loss of class experience and productivity, which is detrimental to his educational attainment. He is a part of a minority group that are the labor force replacements that must be able to support this country's ever increasing elderly population's retirement and healthcare benefits.

His school is down gradient of high-density development built when drain it & get it out of there fast was the acceptable method of stormwater management. Three maintenance guys are responsible for 211,000 sq. ft. plus 80 acres of school property. Their duties include setups for programs, meetings and events; heating, snow removal & salting; repairs and preventative maintenance. Each custodian has to clean 29,000-sq. ft. per day, which equates to just over 60 sq. ft. per minute in a normal day. The per student debt last year was \$7239.00 not including the local high school. Glenn's school used emergency funding for repairs because a recent referendum failed by 85%. The voting majority's average income is about \$29,000 which is not a living wage.

Wisconsin capped school operation costs, froze school construction costs, and will not recognize the extra 30 million dollars it estimates schools could need this year. It does not allow developers to be charged impact fees for facilities owned by school districts; and has a law which basically says "you can not build anything worse than dirt." In this state, built to code is nothing to brag about.

Children are the most valuable resource in the United States, which clearly needs to have healthier schools in this global economy where only the smartest nation will survive.

Most Sincerely and Respectfully,


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