



June 7, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

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Re: Milwaukee Wisconsin Voucher Schools' Discrimination Against Students with Disabilities

Dear Ms. Bhargava and Ms. Nichol,

Enclosed please find our complaint alleging systemic discrimination against students with disabilities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by and through the voucher school system established by state law and implemented through its Department of Public Instruction. As detailed in our complaint, the failure of the State of Wisconsin to enforce federal anti-discrimination laws against the schools participating in the voucher program has led to discrimination against students with disabilities through their almost total exclusion from participation in the program and ultimate segregation within the Milwaukee Public School system.

Right now, the voucher tuition program is limited to participation by 22,500 low income students in the city of Milwaukee, but despite the discriminatory effect of this program, the Wisconsin legislature is attempting to expand this program by: eliminating the limit on the number of students participating, dramatically increasing income limits,



and implementing the program in one or more other Wisconsin cities in time for the 2011-2012 school year. With this urgent issue pending, we request a meeting with you by phone or in person, to discuss these issues within the next two weeks.

We appreciate the Department of Justice's attention to this important matter for students in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

/s Courtney A. Bowie

Courtney A. Bowie
Karyn Rotker
Jeff Spitzer-Resnick

Enclosure: Complaint
Exhibits

cc: Alison Barkoff
Special Counsel on Olmstead
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