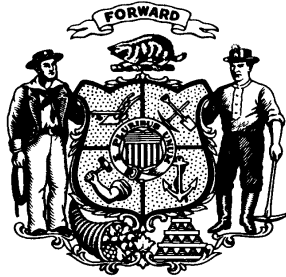


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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Performance-Based Disease Management for Large Populations. Among other items in its charge, the Special Committee is directed to focus on group settings for children, primarily schools, preschools, and day care settings and the laws, rules, and policies related to nutrition and physical activities in those settings, especially in regard to childhood obesity.

The Special Committee has received extensive testimony and research regarding methods to combat childhood obesity, including educating young children about good nutrition and providing them with daily physical activity. Much of the information regarding childhood obesity indicates that school-based approaches can be very effective in combating childhood obesity. To that end, the Special Committee members believe that nutrition education and physical activity must be included and encouraged at the earliest possible time in a child's life and incorporated into child care settings.

By executive order, you recently created the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. On behalf of the Special Committee, I ask you to consider including in the council's charge a directive to create a quality rating system for child care, and to include within the quality rating system indicators regarding: (1) the developmentally appropriate nutrition education provided by the day care center; and (2) the developmentally appropriate physical activity provided to children attending the day care center. If the advisory council is not the appropriate vehicle to create the quality rating system, I ask that you direct the Department of Children and Families to create a quality rating system for child care and to include within a quality rating system indicators regarding the developmentally appropriate nutrition education and physical activity provided at the child care center. The Special Committee believes that giving parents and caregivers information about these important indicators will help them to better understand and identify quality care for their children.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Letzing or Mary Matthias at the Legislative Council.

Sincerely,

Senator Julie Lassa  
Chair, Special Committee on  
Performance-Based Disease Management  
Programs for Large Populations

JL:ksm