

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2006

Terrell Halaska
Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Congressional Affairs
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-3100

Dear Mr. Halaska:

We are writing on behalf of our constituent, Mr. Art Rainwater, Superintendent for the Madison Metropolitan School District, regarding problems they have experienced with the U.S. Department of Education. We have enclosed a copy of his correspondence for your information.

As you are aware, a recent internal audit of the Department's Reading First program cited significant mismanagement of the program. The report from the Office of Inspector General questions the program's credibility and implies the Department broke the law by interfering in the curriculum decisions made by schools, thereby failing to follow proper grant review procedures. In 2004, the Madison Metropolitan School District declined to continue to participate in the Reading First program, citing the overly rigid requirements and the District's reservations about the approval process for Reading First grants. As a result, the District estimates it has lost millions in federal funding.

We would appreciate your review and investigation of the concerns expressed by the Madison Metropolitan School District. Specifically, they are seeking the reinstatement of lost federal resources to the Madison Schools from the Reading First program. Any information that would assist us in responding to him would be greatly appreciated.

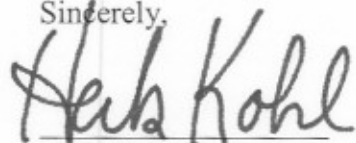
Please inform our offices of your findings and forward all correspondence to the attention of, Ms. Darcy Luoma, at:

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

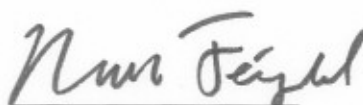
ATTN: Darcy Luoma
14 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 207
Madison, WI 53703

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator



Russ Feingold
U.S. Senator



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Congresswoman