



Tuesday Morning Memo

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

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Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Proposals Introduced

On Friday, January 22nd, several legislators introduced companion bills (identical bills introduced in both the State Senate and State Assembly) to address the lack of clarity related to the appropriate use of restraint and seclusion in Wisconsin schools. This has been an area of concern for many years and credit has to go to Jeff Spitzer-Resnick of Disability Rights Wisconsin for his relentless efforts in getting the legislation introduced.

To see a “non-legalese” summary of the proposal, as well as copies of the actual proposals, go the Public Policy section of The Arc-Wisconsin website at:

<http://www.arc-wisconsin.org/arcwisconsin/public+policy/default.asp>

It is not too early to contact your legislators to urge them to support these proposals. We will provide regular updates on the status of these proposals.

State of the State Tonight, State of the Union Tomorrow Night

It may not be quite like back-to-back nights of “American Idol”. At 7:00 pm this evening, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle will present his final State of the State address. Given the poor economy and that Doyle is not seeking re-election, it is unlikely that any earth-shattering announcements will be made in his speech. However, the speech will give some sense of a political tone for Doyle’s final year as governor.

Wisconsin Eye has an interesting program posted on their website that includes a panel discussion featuring two former speech writers that composed State of the State speeches for several governors. It is only 30 minutes long and includes some interesting insights on the history, audience and purpose of these speeches. To view the program online, go to:

<http://www.wiseye.org/>

On Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm (central time), President Obama will present the State of the Union address. This speech will likely include many announcements related to significant issues such as national security and health care reform. It will be aired on major networks.

More Legislative Goings

On Monday, State Senator Ted Kanavas (R-Brookfield) announced that he will not be seeking re-election. To see a related news article, go to:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/82634197.html>

Committee Vote on Medicaid Audit to Take Place on Wednesday

The Joint Legislative Committee on Audit will vote on the proposed Medicaid audit at the committee hearing on Wednesday.