## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2025

The Honorable Tony Evers Governor, State of Wisconsin PO Box 7863 Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers,

We write to request the State of Wisconsin's participation in the newly created federal tax credit scholarship program that provides enhanced educational opportunities for K–12 students. You stated in a September 4<sup>th</sup> interview that you would not opt the State of Wisconsin into this program. Low- and middle-income families deserve access to the same quality educational opportunities as those who are more fortunate. Denying Wisconsin families access to these scholarships for the sake of partisan politics is irresponsible, unfair, and counterproductive to our shared goal of improving educational outcomes for Wisconsin students.

President Trump and Congressional Republicans worked to fulfill our promise to lower costs and deliver relief to hardworking American families. As you know, our landmark legislation included a provision to incentivize charitable donations to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). Any taxpayer may claim a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 for donations to approved SGOs. Families with incomes not exceeding 300 percent of their county's median gross income are eligible for scholarships funded by these donations. This structure maximizes participation and increases the potential impact for families across the state.

These scholarships can be used for a variety of vital educational needs, including tuition, tutoring, school supplies, support services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and transportation. Opting out will mean denying Wisconsin families access to this assistance.

The program also includes robust safeguards to ensure accountability and proper use of funds. For example, each SGO must be a federally recognized nonprofit organization that serves at least ten students across more than one school. SGOs must also verify the income eligibility of participating families.

To allow Wisconsin's working families to get these scholarships, you and your administration must opt the state into the program. Doing so not only strengthens Wisconsin's already successful school choice program but also extends critical support to students, including those enrolled in public school, who need additional educational assistance. Wisconsin should seize this opportunity to empower parents and expand access to quality education for every child.

Your current course of action denies students access to greater educational opportunities. We urge you and your administration to reconsider and promptly submit Wisconsin's approved list of SGOs to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in accordance with forthcoming rules and guidance, so families can begin receiving scholarships when the program launches in January 2027. If you choose not to reverse course, we respectfully request a detailed explanation as to why Wisconsin parents are being denied the opportunity to provide their children with the best possible education.

Sincerely,

Ron Johnson

U.S. Senator

Bryan Steil Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald Member of Congress Glenn Grothman Member of Congress Tom Tiffany Member of Congress

Derrick Van Orden Member of Congress

Tony Wied Member of Congress

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