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To: Joint Finance Committee members
From: Ken Taylor, WCCF executive director
Subject: Intercity Bus Assistance Program (Paper #656)

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) urges the Joint Finance Committee to support **alternative 3** in LFB paper #656, which would maintain full funding of the Intercity Bus Assistance Program.

The Fiscal Bureau paper notes that “The Intercity Bus Assistance Program provides a source of transportation to the less affluent, the elderly, the disabled, and the young. Improved intercity bus service could expand transportation choices for Wisconsin’s growing senior population and those groups that have been adversely affected by past service reductions.”

WCCF is concerned about our citizens that rely solely on public transportation as a means to get to work, school, and healthcare services. This program was created to connect the state’s rural and medium-sized cities with the urban areas and educational centers of the state; and other modes of transportation such as airports and intercity rail in Milwaukee.

Intercity bus service has been provided by privately owned companies. In recent years, there has been less routes offered, leaving many communities without bus service and reduced transportation options. The Intercity Bus Assistance Program was designed to fill this gap of service in these areas to help bus and mass transit users.

If the committee is not willing to support **alternative 3**, we hope the committee supports **alternative 2**, which would retain the DOT’s authority to disburse intercity bus grants.

Thank you for your consideration.