



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Carol Carstensen, President Johnny Winston, Jr., Vice President Shwaw Vang, Clerk Juan José López, Treasurer Bill Keys, Member Lawrie Kobza, Member Ruth Roberts, Member

April 10, 2006

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to express our grave concerns about HR 4437, the proposed changes to our nation's immigration policy. As passed by the House of Representatives, this bill is a punitive and ill-conceived change to national immigration policy that will make criminals out of immigrants and those that assist them.

During the past decade, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Hispanic immigrants moving to Madison. Our schools have opened the doors to these immigrant children and their families. Our school staff works on a daily basis to teach these children and assist their families in many ways. It is our firm belief that the public schools are for the public and government policy should assist *all* children attending public schools.

We contend that these hard-working families that have come to our country – like many before them – seek only to have the opportunity to provide for their families. In recent years, Latino businesses in Madison have grown and prospered in our community, contributing greatly to the city's cultural diversity and economic success.

We urge you, and the Members of Congress, to develop a bipartisan, comprehensive approach to immigration policy that allows immigrants a rigorous, but fair path to citizenship. It seems obvious, but maybe it needs to be re-stated emphatically: **the United States is a nation of immigrants.**

We, the undersigned members of the Madison Board of Education, call upon the Wisconsin Congressional delegation to oppose HR 4437 and work in a bipartisan manner to pass a national immigration policy that recognizes the accomplishments and hard work of immigrants living in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Juan Jose Lopez
Member, Board of Education

Johnny Winston, Jr.
Vice President, Board of Education