

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statement from Howard Fuller**

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**Milwaukee, WI— 07/27/2017** — For me, the goal of choice has always been to give low income and working class parents the same educational options as wealthier families. That is why I opposed Governor Walker’s effort in 2011 to eliminate the income limits in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. Instead, I proposed that we use an income limit from the Badger Care program that included working class families - 300% of the federal poverty limit. The legislature agreed and adopted that number for both the Milwaukee and Racine choice programs.

Unfortunately, the statewide choice program uses the much lower income limit of 185% of the federal poverty level. This means a single mom with two children making \$38,000 a year in West Allis or Beloit or Wausau is “too rich” to qualify for the program. She must find a way on her own to pay for a better education for her children.

I urge you to raise the income limit in the statewide choice program to the 300% of federal poverty level used in the Milwaukee and Racine choice programs. This would provide consistency statewide. It is important that we update the income cap to fit the reality of today’s economic environment for low income and working class families

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