



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Evers Puts Politics before Student Safety

Local bill that emerged out of school safety workgroup gets vetoed

Madison- Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), and Representative John Jagler (R-Watertown) released the following statement after Governor Evers vetoed Assembly Bill 53, a bill that emerged out of a local workgroup tasked with improving student safety. The bill passed out of both chambers with bipartisan support earlier this year.

“The Governor’s actions today are a prime example of the partisan games he’s choosing to play in the East Wing. The decision to be made was simple. Here’s a bill that was crafted by local officials whose primary job is to keep our kids in our schools safe. Instead, the Governor chose to listen to the ridiculous rhetoric from Madison and Milwaukee and vetoed a simple piece of legislation,” said Representative John Jagler.

“The Governor falsely claimed that this bill was a mandate that would negatively impact the privacy of parents. However, this bill afforded parents the ability to opt out if they wanted to. The Governor must have forgotten about that between his opening paragraph explaining the ability to do so and his conclusion where he used it as an excuse to veto it,” said Senator Luther Olsen.

“Although the veto is quite disappointing, unfortunately, I’m not surprised. The Governor’s accusation that this is a mandate shows his ignorance to the topic. This bill simply gives local school boards more options to include in their directory data list, which is a choice, not a mandate. His lack of understanding of the legislation is quite apparent, and it makes us question whether or not he’s even reading the bills that his staff puts in front of him. It’s going to be difficult to get anything done in the Capitol when he can’t even see through the politics on a straightforward, bipartisan bill that would have put the best interest of our kids first,” said Representative Mark Born.

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Assembly Bill 53 makes a change to statute that will allow school districts to add the name of a pupil’s parent or guardian to the list of categories that they can include in their directory data. Directory data is a list of information that a school may disclose, in a timely manner compared to other mechanisms, as long as certain notification procedures are followed. The bill does not mandate that a pupil’s parent or guardian is added to that list, but simply allows for the decision on a local level.