



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Can't Afford Two School Systems
Taxpayers pay twice in voucher school system

MADISON — As families across Wisconsin receive their property tax bills, Representative Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) spoke out today regarding the cost of voucher programs on homeowners and school districts footing the bill for private school programs.

“Our neighborhood public schools are the heart and soul of our community,” Neubauer said. “In Wisconsin, every child has a right to an education, and our public schools step up to educate every child. However, voucher school programs don’t accept every child and result in reduced state aid to public schools in Racine and in districts across Wisconsin, even if children return to public schools in the same year. Unfortunately, we just can’t afford to sustain two separate school systems competing for the same public money.”

The non-partisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau recently released a memo showing that vouchers reduced aid to public schools by \$145 million. \$18 million of that aid reduction comes from the Racine program, resulting in a 9% funding loss -- the largest proportional state aid reduction in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin program cap expands 1% each year, until 2026-27 when it is lifted completely.

“Wisconsin families deserve transparency on where their taxpayer dollars are going and the full impact of private voucher schools on state education aid. I am calling on Assembly Leadership to hold a hearing on 2019 Assembly Bill 299, so Wisconsin taxpayers can see the full impact of private voucher school programs on school funding in Racine.”

2019 Assembly Bill 299, introduced by Rep. Jodi Emerson, would allow which would allow homeowners to see the impact of private voucher school enrollment on their property tax bill by listing the gross reduction in state aid to their school district caused by resident students enrolling in a voucher school.

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