



Wisconsin Family Ties

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Contact: Joanne Juhnke, Policy Director – (608) 320-6165; joanne@wifamilyties.org

Wisconsin Family Ties Welcomes State Budget Initiatives on Student Mental Health

Madison, WI – Wisconsin Family Ties is pleased to support the proposed new state-budget investments in student mental health, as announced by Governor Walker in advance of the full release of the 2017-19 State Budget. The proposal would provide \$7 million in funding for initiatives including an increase in school social workers, connecting youth with mental health services, and increased training for school personnel.

One in five Wisconsin students experience mental health challenges, and their struggles are keenly felt in the schools where they spend so many hours of their day. Given that, by nearly any measure, educational outcomes for students with emotional behavioral disabilities are among the lowest in the state, additional support is sorely needed.

“Highlighting mental health in schools is a new and welcome emphasis for the state education budget,” said Joanne Juhnke, Policy Director for Wisconsin Family Ties. “Our organization is looking forward to working to advance these initiatives and shape effective partnerships between districts and families.”

“While the new funding for school mental health initiatives is encouraging,” continued Juhnke, “it represents a first step for students with mental health challenges. Funding for special education continues to erode due to a decade without an increase, even as costs continue to rise. We hope that there will still be flexibility to address this need.”

Wisconsin Family Ties, Wisconsin’s family voice for children’s mental health, is a parent-run nonprofit organization serving families that include children with social, emotional, behavioral or mental health challenges. Founded in 1987, its mission is to enhance lives by promoting children’s mental health.

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Wisconsin’s family voice for children’s mental health

16 North Carroll Street, Suite 230 • Madison, WI 53703 • 608.267.6800 or 800.422.7145 • www.wifamilyties.org

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