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School Safety Package Passes Assembly

Bills aim to keep our children safe

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Madison, WI – Yesterday, the Wisconsin State Assembly met in extraordinary session to take up a multitude a bills, including Governor Walker’s proposed School Safety Package.

Last week, Governor Walker proposed a package of bills aimed at strengthening school safety and assuring that our children and staff feel safe at all times. The package is highlighted by AB 1028 which invests \$100 million into a School Safety grant program that allows school districts the ability to apply for grants in order to make the necessary changes laid out in their locally constructed safety plans.

Rep. Felzkowski (R-Irma) commented, “No parent should ever have to worry about the safety of their son or daughter when they send them off to school in the morning. No teacher should feel like their safety is in question while educating our children. No school district should feel helpless when they think their facilities and practices need updating. This bill will allow school districts the opportunity to decide, on the local level, what they need to do to keep our children and staff safe.”

The package also includes five other bills that create an Office of School Safety within the Department of Justice (DOJ), require teachers and other professionals to report suspected acts of violence, call for school districts to notify parents of bullying within 48 hours of an incident, instruct school districts to work with local law enforcement and DOJ to create and maintain a school safety plan, and allow access to school safety camera footage when there is a legitimate safety interest.

Rep. Felzkowski added, “This package of bills will ensure that everyone in our community is on the same page. Local law enforcement and DOJ will work with the school districts and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to make sure that school safety plans are created, practiced, and maintained. Schools will work with teachers, students, and parents to provide an environment where everyone feels safe. We need to work together to protect our most vulnerable populations.”

Four of the six bills have been sent to Governor Walker’s desk under AB 843, while bullying reporting requirements and access to safety camera footage must still be approved by the senate.

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