



GAE MAGNAFICI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

TO: Assembly Committee on Government Accountability and Oversight
FROM: Representative Gae Magnafici
DATE: September 15th, 2021
SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of AB 378

Chair Knodl and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 378, which makes it easier for tax-paying Wisconsinites to know where their money is being spent.

Investment in K-12 education is at a historic high. Under Republican control, over a third of our state budget is allocated towards education. Over the past nine years, state aid for education has increased every year.

Unfortunately, many constituents I have talked with get frustrated when they try to find school budget information. While the Department of Public Instruction publishes this information, the current system is not as user-friendly as it should be.

These constituents often have to reach out to a school district and ask for budget information directly. In many cases, I am sure constituents never find the information they are looking for.

This bill will solve this issue by creating a portal that will help the public better interact with their school districts. By consolidating financial information that is being reported to the Department of Public Instruction, I am confident the public will have better access to the information they deserve.

Wisconsinites understand the value of strong schools, and they deserve a tool to ensure their tax dollars are being used to achieve that goal.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.