



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2021

Contact: Rep. Lee Snodgrass, 608-266-3070

**LGBTQ Legislative Caucus Democrats
Submit Testimony Against AB562**

MADISON - Today, the Assembly Committee on Education held a hearing on 2021 Assembly Bill 562. LGBTQ Legislative Caucus Chair Rep. Lee Snodgrass (D-Appleton) released the following statement highlighting testimony submitted by Democratic members of the caucus in opposition to AB 562:

“I am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues in the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus as we submit testimony in opposition to Assembly Bill 562 today,” Rep. Snodgrass said. “In many cases, school is the only place students receive accurate, non-sensationalized information about gender identity, gender expression and sexual identity which is a part of comprehensive human development curriculum.”

Rep. Snodgrass continued, “This bill, rushed through the process in less than 48 hours, will further marginalize students who may already face additional challenges and sets a dangerous precedent to pull students in and out of classrooms if parents do not like the topic of the day. Assembly Republicans are targeting LGBTQ youth in our state with this unnecessary and divisive bill instead of fighting to get Wisconsinites the real help they need during a pandemic.”

A full copy of the testimony submitted by Democratic members of the LGBTQ caucus is available on the following page.

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TO: Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Representative Lee Snodgrass, Chair of the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
Representative Greta Neubauer, Member of the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
Representative Mark Spreitzer, Member of the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
Representative Marisabel Cabrera, Member of the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
Senator Tim Carpenter, Member of the LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus
DATE: September 16, 2021
RE: Joint Written Testimony in Opposition to Assembly Bill 562

Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

We offer our testimony today in strong opposition to Assembly Bill 562. AB 562 continues a long-standing trend of legislative overreach targeting LGBTQ+ youth by singling out curriculum, instruction, or discussion of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation in Wisconsin schools for overly burdensome regulation.

By targeting discussion relating to gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation in Wisconsin classrooms, AB 562 will prevent all students from gaining a fuller understanding of themselves and their peers, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

Schools are a place where students can seek answers and support beyond what they find in their household. Denying students access to information, validation, and support regarding gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation can have devastating consequences for student mental health and overall well-being.

Comprehensive curriculum on human growth and development, including sexual development and gender expression, should be presented with the same respect as instruction in any other core subject. Rather than teaching students to engage thoughtfully with new perspectives and concepts, AB 562 incentivizes parents to yo-yo children in and out of classrooms.

We also have substantial concerns regarding the way in which this bill was introduced and noticed for a hearing, which veers from established norms and values to which this body professes to adhere. Good governance allows ample time for public input, participation, and vetting. The rapid introduction and fast-tracking of AB 562 prevents many educators, parents, students, and organizations from being able to participate in the committee process and voice their thoughts on this proposed legislation.

As legislators, it is our duty to ensure all children in Wisconsin feel welcome in our schools and receive accurate, clear, and comprehensive education about a wide variety of issues. Under the guise of “parental control”, this bill will further marginalize vulnerable students, deny their peers important information and perspectives, and sow needless division in classrooms across Wisconsin.

In light of the issues with this bill and the lack of time allowed for public engagement in the committee process, we strongly urge the committee to reject AB 562. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lee Snodgrass
State Representative
57th Assembly District

Greta Neubauer
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District

Marisabel Cabrera
State Representative
9th Assembly District

Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District