



JON PLUMER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Plumer Bill Passes State Assembly

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin State Assembly passed 2021 Assembly Bill 564 on a 60-38 vote on Tuesday afternoon. The legislation, which was authored by Rep. Jon Plumer (R – Lodi), makes significant investments in student mental health programs and creates more transparency in how our state is spending funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA.

“After a year of isolation, it is no surprise that student mental health has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken in response to it,” said Rep. Plumer. “Getting our children back into classrooms this year has helped, but the damage has already been done. We need to do what we can to address their mental health needs and this bill will help with that.”

Assembly Bill 564 would direct Governor Evers to allocate at least \$100 million of ARPA funds for school mental health service grants. Acceptable uses for ARPA funds include behavior health needs exacerbated by the pandemic, according to federal guidelines and ARPA funded costs can be incurred through 2024.

In addition to setting aside funding for mental health grants, Assembly Bill 564 also requires transparency on how ARPA funds are being spent by state agencies. State agencies that have to submit reports to the federal government on ARPA fund expenditures would be required to submit those reports to the Joint Committee on Finance at the same time. Agencies would also be required to make those reports available online to the general public.

“I am proud to see this common sense legislation passed,” said Rep. Plumer. “I urge my colleagues in the senate to take swift action on this bill.”

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