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### **The League of Women Voters of WI supports Assembly Bill 859 and Senate Bill 852**

This bill would keep the legislature's promise within the current budget to increase the special education reimbursement rate. New calculations show the allocation in the 2025-2027 budget was about \$140 million short of meeting the promised rate.

While the amount promised in the last budget cycle (and most budget cycles in the past) was already woefully inadequate to meet kids' needs, this bill is a common-sense proposal to deliver what was promised. For future budget cycles the legislature should convert special education reimbursement from a sum certain to a sum sufficient appropriation. Schools which serve students on a "special needs voucher" are entitled to a 90% reimbursement rate - on top of the voucher with a sum sufficient allocation. The difference in treatment between the public schools and private schools is irrational and unfair.

The Wisconsin League of Women Voter's position on this bill is based on our position stating that the League supports:

- A system of financing which ensures that a child's opportunity for a good education is not limited by the fiscal ability of the local district and that the state will assume a significant amount of educational financing.
- A system of financing which promotes equality in educational opportunity with emphasis on instructional costs and adjusted funding for students with special educational needs.