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To: Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

Re: Support SB 301

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin supports SB 301 which reduces the mandatory 75 day waiting period between WRS employment to 30 days. This allows rehired annuitant educators to start employment on the first day of the school year rather than pushing back the employment start date well into the first semester to accommodate the 75 day mandatory break in service. The revised 30 day waiting period will help with the teacher shortage by allowing rehiring of experienced, retired educators in a timely manner.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin supports policy that promotes educational equity and access to educational opportunities for each child through nondiscriminatory policies and an equitable state aids formula while retaining substantial program and personnel responsibilities in the local district.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin supports that this bill removes the requirement that an annuitant who returns to work for a participating employer have his or her annuity suspended and become a participating employee and instead allows an annuitant who returns to work to either 1) elect to suspend his or her annuity and become a participating employee; or 2) elect to continue receiving his or her annuity and not become a participating employee. Under current law, if a Wisconsin Retirement System annuitant, or a disability annuitant who has attained his or her normal retirement date, is appointed to a position with a WRS-participating employer or provides employee services to a WRS-participating employer in which he or she is expected to work at least two-thirds of what is considered full-time employment by the Department of Employee Trust Funds, the annuity must be suspended and no annuity payment is payable until after the participant again terminates covered employment.