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DANIEL M. ROSSMILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Christopher Kulow, WASB Government Relations Director
DATE: December 17, 2025
RE: OPPOSITION to ASSEMBLY BILL 749, mandating instruction in blood and organ donation in high school grades.

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) is a voluntary membership association representing Wisconsin public school boards.

During each legislative session numerous bills are introduced to impose curricular mandates on schools. The WASB generally opposes those bills when they either impose unfunded mandates on local school districts or attempt to micromanage decisions best left to local board discretion. In general, the WASB supports local school board control of curricular decisions.

As a local control organization, WASB does not have a role in picking and choosing among potentially sympathetic causes for curriculum content, and not every good cause can be a curriculum mandate. I would also note that this requirement would not apply to independent charter schools, private choice schools, or private schools.

I hope this does not give the impression that we don't support increasing awareness of the importance of blood and organ donation. Many schools work with local partners to raise awareness and host blood drives.

When initially contacted earlier this year by supporters of this legislation, we offered to work with them on several different alternatives. These approaches would work towards promoting awareness of this important issue more effectively than a curriculum mandate:

- We offered to find opportunities either at the state education convention or in our School News magazine to promote blood/organ donation awareness. There could even be opportunities to partner with a school district providing this instruction effectively.
- Nothing prohibits local school districts from including these topics in a high school health education curriculum on their own accord if they are determined to be important information for (generally) minors. We suggested focusing their energy on finding willing partners at the local level to help implement this curriculum.
- Outside of public schools, we suggested this may be an effort better aimed at DOT/DMV to be included in drivers' education curriculum. Particularly since you register to become an organ/tissue donor in conjunction with receiving a driver's license or ID card.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We would welcome working with you on blood and organ donation awareness outside of a legislative mandate such as Assembly Bill 749.