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**Kim Kaukl**

**Executive Director**

**1755 Oakwood Circle**

**Plain, WI 53577**

**Cell Phone: (608) 553-0689**

**kimkaukl@wirsa.org**

October 3, 2019

Chairmen Thiesfeldt and Olson and members of the Joint Education Committee:

My name is Kim Kaukl, I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA). Our organization represents and supports over 220 members with 155 rural school districts, several CESAs, technical colleges, universities, businesses and individual members.

Our organization has registered in support of Assembly Bill 441, relating to a shared services aid program for school districts. This is a concept that we have supported throughout the past two budget cycles and have conferred with Representative Felzkowski numerous times on this concept. Those of you on the Blue-Ribbon Commission on School Funding also heard testimony from a number of our rural districts requesting and proposing the shared services concept as a viable solution to a shortage of administrators, especially in the specialized areas of Business Manager, Pupil Services and Human Resources to name a few. We feel this is a bill that could be very helpful to our rural districts to provide needed services in a cost effective and efficient manner. If you look around the state, there are already districts doing using this concept and this bill will hopefully encourage more to do so.

In conclusion, we have seen this concept almost approved in the last two budget cycles and with the support and recommendation of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on School Funding Report the time is right to move this concept forward. With that said I ask that your committees support Assembly Bill 441.

Thank you for your time and taking my written testimony into consideration.

Kim Kaukl

Kim Kaukl

Executive Director

Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance

608-553-0689

kimkaukl@wirsa.org

*Strong Schools, Strong Communities*