

Memo

To: Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Committee Chair

From: Bob Baxter, Executive Director

cc: Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, President

re: AB 661 related to credit recovery courses

Date: September 25, 2021

The Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) is opposed to AB 661 related to school board requirements to report information regarding credit recovery courses. As written AB 661 does not provide a full picture of the data related to students enrolled in and completing credit recovery classes. A significant number of students served by our members seeking credit recovery were previously enrolled in school choice programs. We often see these students return to the public schools after discipline issues arise, a special education need is identified, or shortly after the third Friday enrollment count is complete. It is important to track the school enrollment of students where the credit breakdown occurred alongside information related to credit recovery courses to fully gain an understanding of the issue. Further, the amendment to this bill identifying students by race and English language status has the potential to violate student privacy particularly in smaller school districts. WEAC President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen said, “this bill will only offer one small snapshot of information without the proper context of a comprehensive view.”