

Memo

To: Members, Wisconsin State Assembly
From: Bob Baxter, Executive Director
cc: Peggy Wirtz-Olsen, President
re: AB 488 relating to the posting of learning materials and educational activities
Date: September 28, 2021

The Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) registers in opposition to AB 488 related to posting all curriculum materials on a school district's website. The process of posting all learning materials and educational activities would prove to be a cumbersome and costly venture for school districts.

Purchased curriculum is created with exclusive rights making school districts vulnerable to copyright violations. Teacher developed materials, instructional units, and lesson plans are proprietary exposing school districts to violating teacher intellectual property rights. The idea that the bill explicitly includes a provision for injunctive relief not only is duplicative for violation of any state statute, but it abdicates law making to the courts disrupting the checks and balances of state government. As written this bill deputizes residents creating the conditions for opportunistic, frivolous, and unnecessary litigation.

"As society changes from an industrial to a knowledge era increasing importance and value is being placed on intellectual property rights. Wisconsin educators spend countless hours after school, on the weekends, and in the summer developing curriculum and lesson plans for their students, says WEAC President Peggy Wirtz-Olsen.