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TO: Chairman Dave Murphy and Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

FROM: Dr. Jeanne Hossenlopp, Vice President for Research and Innovation and Dr. William Cullinan, Dean of Health Sciences

DATE: April 5, 2022

RE: Assembly Bill 873 Relating to: spinal cord injury research grants and symposia and making an appropriation

On behalf of Marquette University, we are writing to thank Representative Tittl and Senator Carpenter for authoring the bipartisan supported Assembly Bill 873 related to spinal cord injury research grants and symposium up to \$3 million every biennium. We are unable to attend the Committee's public hearing on April 6, 2022 but wanted to weigh in on this matter.

Assembly Bill 873 requires Wisconsin's Department of Health Services to appoint a Spinal Cord Injury Council with one member representing the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, one member representing the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the following members: 1) a person with a spinal cord injury; 2) a family member of a person with a spinal cord injury; 3) a veteran with a spinal cord injury; 4) a physician specializing in the treatment of spinal cord injuries; 5) a neurosurgery researcher; and 6) a researcher employed by the federal Veterans Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Marquette University is respectfully requesting an amendment to Assembly bill 873 to include "One member representing Marquette University" to the Spinal Cord Injury Council.

We are aware that on behalf of Unite 2 Fight Paralysis, Dr. Murray Blackmore, plans to testify at the public hearing. Dr. Blackwell is one of the nation's leading spinal cord researchers and we will allow his story and body of work to speak for itself at the hearing.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this amendment and Marquette University looks forward to working with the State of Wisconsin on spinal cord research in the future.