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John H. Ashley, Executive Director

TO: Members, Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Chris Kulow, Government Relations Specialist
RE: Senate Bill 412, Relating to providing lifesaving skills instruction to pupils.
DATE: January 6, 2016

Chairman Olsen and committee members, my name is Chris Kulow and I am the government relations specialist for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, representing 423 school boards across the state of Wisconsin. As mentioned, I am speaking for information only on Senate Bill 412.

Our primary concern with this bill from the start has been the financial impact on school districts. In particular the cost of the training and equipment to provide this specialized instruction in CPR to students.

Although the bill itself is an unfunded mandate, the WASB is not opposing the bill for a number of reasons:

- The author of the bill, Sen. Petrowski, has been responsive to our concerns and has worked with representatives of the American Heart Association to lessen the financial burden on schools. We thank both Senator Petrowski and the AHA for their work on this.
- The AHA has indicated to us it is prepared to invest \$75,000—enough to provide each CESA in the state with 100 kits (mannequins and training DVDs) for use in training students.
- In addition, the AHA is working on a grant proposal with CESA 7 to provide substantially more funding. If successful, this grant application would fund teacher training and provide those teachers who successfully complete the training with kits they could take back to their districts. The grant may even include funds to cover the cost of hiring substitutes while teachers are receiving training.
- We are also encouraged by the opportunity for schools to partner with local fire/EMS and medical providers such as hospitals and clinics in an effort to reduce costs.
- It is our understanding that the instruction required by the bill can be done in as little as 30 minutes per student and teachers will not be required to obtain any additional license or certification to do the training. We appreciate this aspect of the bill.
- The bill has a delayed effective date of the 2017-18 school year which will give schools time to plan and schools are already required to *offer* CPR training to students.
- The bill has strong bipartisan support and there is undoubtedly a benefit to the community of having students with lifesaving skills.